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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Has a census enumerator come to your house yet?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Fleet Expansion
Continental Micronesia will increase its fleet from nine to 10 Boeing 737 aircraft.

BUSINESS...Page 9

Pinoy Pride
Reuben Maghanoy's "Fir Blossoms" is awarded 3rd prize in Bridge Capital's art competition.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Prexy Dreams
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would love to run for president—if he could.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

INTERIOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS

US citizenship, permanent residency for aliens who've been here 5 years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With still days to go before its May 10, 2010 deadline, the U.S. Department of the Interior submitted to Congress yesterday a report recommending that thousands of alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum of five years be allowed to apply for long-term status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

See ALIENS on Page 4

FAST FACTS

Statuses under INA and other U.S. laws that Congress could consider for aliens who have been in the CNMI for at least five years:

- U.S. citizenship by an act of Congress;
- Permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship, with five-year minimum residence spent anywhere in the U.S. or its territories;
- Permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship, with the five-year residence spent in the CNMI;
- Nonimmigrant status like that negotiated for Freely Associated States, and they may live and work in the U.S. and its territories;
- Nonimmigrant status like that for FAS citizens, but they may live and work in the CNMI only.

Source: U.S. Department of the Interior

Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, left, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, address local and federal government officials shortly before Babauta's briefing on the Interior's report to Congress on the status of foreign workers in the CNMI, in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ortizo wins AG' Cup competition

» Mount Carmel bags 12th championship in 26 years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

This year's revival of the Attorney Generals' Cup speech competition proved to be a boon for Mount Carmel School senior Ryan Bradley Estacio Ortizo, who emerged as the contest's overall champion, besting seven other contenders from public and private schools in the CNMI.

Ortizo was awarded the prestigious perpetual trophy, which will be displayed at his school throughout the year, a $350

See ORTIZO on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Mount Carmel School senior Ryan Ortizo, third from right, bags the first place in this year's revived 26th Attorney General's Cup. From left, parents Nero and Myrna Ortizo, Attorney General Edward Buckingham, Ortizo, his coach Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and Supreme Court Associate Justice Alexandro Castro.

US Senate confirms Limtiaco as US Attorney for Guam, NMI. PAGE 2
DPS sees decrease in motorists' seat belt usage. PAGE 5

Local

US Senate confirms Limtiaco as US Attorney for Guam, NMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Senate has confirmed Attorney General Alicia Limtiaco to serve as U.S. Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, according to Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo yesterday. She said the U.S. Senate passed Limtiaco's nomination by unanimous consent yesterday evening.

President Barack Obama submitted his nomination for Limtiaco on Feb. 24, 2010. Bordallo earlier recommended to President Obama Limtiaco's nomination as U.S. Attorney.

Limtiaco is the first woman to be elected Attorney General of Guam. In addition to prioritizing criminal prosecutions, Limtiaco initiated public education initiatives to stimulate public interest and increase awareness of Guam's laws and legal processes. She took particular interest and worked intensely in the prevention of Internet crimes against children, identity theft and cyber security.

Limtiaco

Prior to her election as Attorney General, Limtiaco served for more than seven years in the Prosecution Division of the Office of the Attorney General. As a prosecutor, and acting Chief Prosecutor, she participated in, and supervised, the work of attorneys and other legal staff in the prosecution of numerous adult criminal felony and misdemeanor cases, including homicides, criminal sexual conduct, family violence, aggravated assaults and other violent crimes involving drugs and firearms, as well as, civil and property crimes. She placed new emphasis on the investigation, prosecution and prevention of white collar crime.

Earning her Juris Doctor degree in 1990 from the University of California in Los Angeles, Limtiaco is a member of the Bar Associations in Guam and California where she has been in public and private practice for over 15 years. An avid educator, Limtiaco served as Adjunct Faculty and Assistant Professor with the University of Guam's College of Professional Studies, School of Business, Public Administration and Legal Studies. She taught at the UOG for over seven years and at the GCC's Basic Law Enforcement Academy and Criminal Justice Program for over six years.

"I congratulate Attorney General Limtiaco on her confirmation as the next U.S. Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands," Bordallo said. "Attorney General Limtiaco's nomination by President Obama and confirmation by the Senate is historic as she will be the first woman to serve in this role. Attorney General Limtiaco is a qualified and dedicated public servant and I look forward to working with her. I am confident that she will be an effective leader and will be responsive to the community's needs and concerns."

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho also issued a statement praising Limtiaco's Senate confirmation.

"Lieutenant Governor Michael W. Cruz and I commend the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Attorney General Limtiaco," said Camacho. "This historic vote not only ensures that justice is administered in Guahan and the CNMI but allows a respected daughter of Guahan to hold one of the most important federal posts in the western Pacific. We join all island leaders in congratulating her, and wish her the best of luck as she assumes her new position. We are committed to working with AG Limtiaco to tackle the most pressing issues facing the two districts."

Limtiabo will be taking over the position previously occupied by Leonardo Rapadas, whose term as U.S. Attorney for Guam and the CNMI recently ended. ***(PR)***

DOING THEIR PART NMC

Northern Marianas College students and staff members take time for a group photo before participating in the Islandwide Cleanup. The event was held on Friday, April 23, 2010 in observance of the 27th Annual Environmental Awareness Month. Participants took time between class and work to participate in the cleanup, which began at the NMC campus and ended near YCO Hardware in As Terlaje.

TOURISM MONTH CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tourism industry leaders, legislators, and Board members, leadership and staff of the Marianas Visitors Authority joined Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, seated in white, as he proclaims May as Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands. The signing ceremony was held April 29 at the Office of the Governor. The monthlong celebration will kick off with the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden today, May 1, at the American Memorial Park.

Tudor, Mayor's Office tie up to put down abandoned pets

PAWS publicly acknowledged yesterday Dr. Tudor of Paradise Island Animal Hospital and the Saipan Mayor's Office for their combined efforts in helping abandoned animals and the community.

PAWS said the Mayor's Office has been prompt to respond to its calls and that of private citizens to pick up dead or abandoned animals.

Over the last several months, PAWS has called the Mayor's Office and asked for help in capturing a sickly and/or abandoned animals living near schools, beaches, or residences. To date, the Mayor's Office has been quick to respond and has captured the animals in a humane method, said PAWS.

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Dr. Tudor has also offered to contribute to the effort to reduce suffering and improve the community by euthanizing any animal brought to his hospital—for free—by the Mayor's Office, so long as the Mayor's Office disposes of the bodies.

"This may sound morbid," said PAWS president Katie Busenkell, "but it is absolutely necessary. PAWS has no place to put these abandoned animals, and we certainly don't have the funds to provide necessary medical care to so many animals. Catching and euthanizing these animals is the most humane option at this point in time."

On Thursday evening, at 5:30pm, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and his crew met PAWS at Lau Lau Beach to capture three dogs that had been abandoned and were starving.

"The mayor and his crew were on time, even after normal works hours, well equipped with a noose and a dog catching cage used by animal control professionals," said Busenkell. The noose is on loan to the Mayor's Office from Dr. Tudor.

After spending the night at a staff member's house, and being fed, the animals were transported to Dr. Tudor's office to be euthanized, for no cost to the government, on Friday morning.

"To have Dr. Tudor's humane and professional services available to these homeless animals is important to the mission, and should be comforting to the community," said Busenkell.

Mayor Flores is attempting to open a holding facility in Lower Base in the coming months. PAWS has offered to recruit volunteers to work at the holding facility to ensure the animals receive proper and humane care. For those interested in volunteering for the mayor's animal clean up efforts, contact PAWS at 285-PAWS or e-mail Katie at busenkell@gmail.com. ***(PAWS)***

PSS: $1M needed to meet MOE requirement in FY10

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

TOURISM INDUSTRY CLEANUP MVA

Nearly 100 volunteers of the Japan Saipan Travel Association, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Korean Tour Association of Saipan, and Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas turned out April 26 to get a jumpstart on May Tourism Month with a tourism industry cleanup. The group collected over 400 pounds of trash in the main tourist district and beaches of Garapan.

The Public School System needs a little over $1 million more so it could meet the maintenance-of-effort requirement of the state fiscal stabilization fund this fiscal year, education officials said yesterday.

Based on the continuing resolution, PSS is budgeted at $32.491 million this fiscal year. However, because of the recent 7.25 percent across-the-board budget cut, a total of $2.355 million was subtracted from the amount, resulting in a current budget of just $30.136 million—just 22 percent of the entire $137 million government budget. The state fiscal stabilization fund requires PSS to receive a minimum funding of 22.73 percent of total government revenue.

Saipan Tribune learned that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has already given PSS $2 million from his share of the state fiscal stabilization fund, bringing the system's budget total to $32.216 million.

However, this is still $1.003 million short of the $33.22 million budget share that PSS should get to meet the maintenance-of-effort requirement, according to PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio Thursday.

Representatives of both PSS and the administration were scheduled to meet Thursday to discuss the remaining $1 million that PSS needs. Education officials are optimistic that the administration would make the necessary reprogramming of local monies to cover the federal requirement.

The CNMI stands to receive a total of $44 million in state fiscal stabilization money, with $33.2 million going to PSS and the rest going to the Governor's Office and the Northern Marianas College.

Last year, PSS received $28 million in the first phase of the state fiscal stabilization fund grant. It will get $14 million in phase 2.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said that they intend to submit the phase 2 application this week to the U.S. Department of Education.

Thornburgh pointed out that meeting the federal requirement is the only way to ensure the continuous flow of federal money to PSS. He is optimistic that the unresolved issue about the maintenance-of-effort requirement would soon be settled between all parties.

Budget gap

It has come to light, however, that, even if Fitial gives PSS the $1 million it needs to meet the maintenance-of-effort requirement, the system will still have a shortfall of $2.779 million this year must be addressed.

PSS projects its expenditures for FY 2010 to reach $36 million—$2.7 million short of its $33.2 million budget.

Tenorio was quick to assure, though, that PSS has already identified resources to cover for this shortfall and would soon complete all the processing.

"We need to address this gap and we have identified four areas in our operation that would give us the needed amount," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said PSS had already reduced its expenditures on non-personnel items, which will save the system $500,000. It had already tapped $1.1 million in state fiscal stabilization fund money for utility expenditures, resulting in just $2.7 million debt to CUC.

Tenorio said PSS is also working on seeking a partial reimbursement for personnel cost from the JROTC program, amounting to $400,000, as well as processing the transfer of local HQT personnel to the state fiscal stabilization fund, which will save it $780,000.

Challenging issue

PSS has two years—until 2011—to spend the state fiscal stabilization fund monies. Tenorio conceded that, with the maintenance-of-effort requirement facing so many challenges this fiscal year, he expects greater challenges next year because government revenues are projected at just $132 million, based on the governor's budget recommendation. This means PSS will be expected to keep public schools running at a much lower budget.

However, Tenorio said PSS has to prioritize and focus on solving the MOE requirement this fiscal year before it could move on to the next.

In the previous weeks, PSS was alarmed over the different austerity bills that were introduced in the Legislature—all wanting PSS to be included in the 10-hour work reduction. PSS said that any move to cut their budget could harm their ability to comply with federal grant requirements. They asked the Legislature to give PSS "flexibility" in identifying areas where it can streamline operations.

Education officials lobbied lawmakers and succeeded in having these legislation killed in both the Senate and House.

Tinian airport improvement projects underway

The Commonwealth Ports Authority recently executed two contracts for improvements to the Tinian International Airport with the assistance of Tinian board member Manuel P. Villagomez. They include the replacement of the rotating beacon for FAA Part 139 compliance and the design for improvements to the new departure and existing terminal.

The design work includes completion of the new departure building with larger airline office space and new check-in counters. This will also increase the existing terminal for arriving passengers and provide more office space to the ports manager, the Ports Police Department and perspective tenants.

The agreement is between CPA and Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects for about $200,000.

Design is scheduled for completion by September 2010 and the scope of work includes air-conditioning of the VIP Lounge and installation of rollup conveyor doors and a new baggage handling conveyor system at the new terminal. Improvements to the existing terminal include replacement of automatic doors, roof tiles and waterproofing of roof, renovations to the restrooms and the storefront door leading to the apron and repainting work.

The rotating beacon replacement is needed as CPA was advised by Federal Aviation Administration during their airport inspection in 2009. The contract was awarded to FPA Pacific Corporation and is anticipated for completion by August 2010.

Both projects are being funded by the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in partnership with the Tinian Delegation and the Mayor of Tinian.

Soon to follow is the relocation of the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting building in Tinian, with funding anticipated in FY 2011. ***(PR)***

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NMC hires new international counselor

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ni Deleon Guerrero, the Northern Marianas College's new international student counselor, will assist foreign students transition to college life in the Commonwealth.

The Northern Marianas College recently hired a new international student counselor to assist foreign students in transitioning to college life in the Commonwealth.

Ni Deleon Guerrero will be tasked with providing academic advising, personal counseling, and other services to support the retention, graduation, and transfer of international students.

She will also be responsible for communicating to international students and their parents NMC's admission and registration requirements and the services and accommodations available as they transition to life on Saipan.

Deleon Guerrero is currently a student at NMC pursuing her bachelor's in elementary education and associate degrees in criminal justice and business administration with an emphasis in accounting.

"I am grateful to NMC for giving me this opportunity," said Deleon Guerrero. "I look forward to working with NMC's international students and aiding them in their efforts to attain a college degree."

The hiring of Deleon Guerrero, a fluent speaker and writer of both Cantonese and Mandarin, fulfills NMC's role and responsibility to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program.

She will also be responsible for entering and maintaining information into the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. SEVIS is a Web-based information system that keeps track of foreign students and other exchange program participants, and allows information sharing among various institutions and government agencies that students and exchange visitors are involved with during their journey to the United States and their stay in the country.

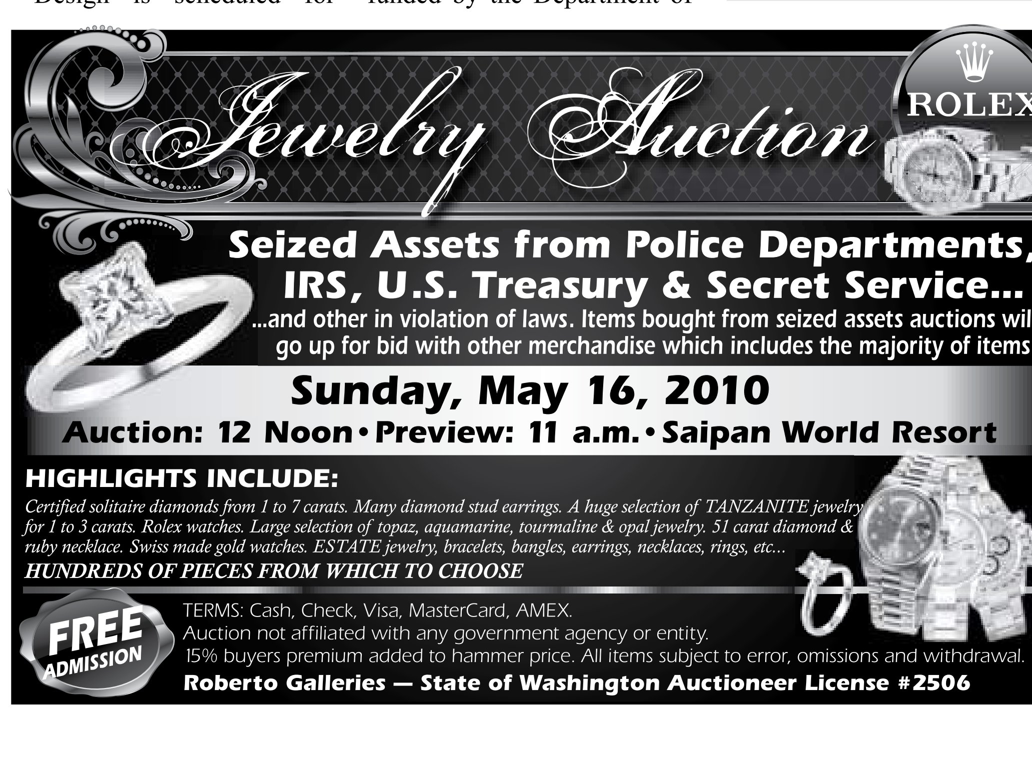
NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera said Deleon Guerrero will be instrumental in the college's efforts to cater to international students.

"It is a great pleasure to welcome Ni to the NMC family. She will be instrumental in our efforts to ensure that international students at the college receive the best services possible," Cabrera said yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that NMC has had a total of 312 foreign students in the last five academic years. These students were accommodated at the community college under the foreign student entry permit.

Records show that about 120 foreign enrollees are accommodated by NMC each academic year, a number that the college wants to improve by offering quality programs and services.

NMC is home to nearly a thousand students, including foreign students, this school year.



ORTIZO

From Page 1

cash prize, and valuable gift items and certificates from competition sponsors.

This marks the 12th year that Mount Carmel School has bagged the championship title and the eighth straight year that the only Catholic school on island has taken home the top prize.

The contest, held last in 2008, also saw Mount Carmel taking home the top prize. The competition was suspended in 2009 due to financial constraints and revived this year.

High achiever

Ortizo, 17, the son of Nero and Myrna Ortizo, has been winning in many speech competitions since third grade. He recently became the first CNMI competitor to qualify four years in a row for the National Forensic League Tournament, held each summer in the U.S. mainland.

He was also the Valentin Sengebau Poetry Competition champion for two years and is a member of the 2010 CNMI Mock Trial National Team that will compete in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this month.

He was a participant in the CNMI We The People Mock Congressional Hearing Team last year.

Both Ortizo and his coach, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, expressed relief yesterday at the outcome and pride at this new achievement for Mount Carmel School.

Deleon Guerrero, who has been coaching in the AG's Cup since 1998, said Mt. Carmel treats the contest every year as a new competition.

"I was relieved because there's always pressure every year [being the titleholder]. I am also very proud of Ryan and all our seniors that helped in this competition," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that "teamwork" was the key to the school's continued success.

This year was Ortizo's first time to compete in the AG's Cup. It was also his last; he will be going to college at the New York University in August.

"The pressure is off! And… I have a lot of people to thank for: my MCS team, my parents, my coach, and to those who supported us throughout the entire process. This could not be possible without them," Ortizo said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the MCS team spent two months researching, discussing, and finalizing Ortizo's piece for the contest.

Policy failures

Mt. Carmel's pride wowed the crowd and the nine-member panel of judges with his vigorous speech that highlighted a number of policy failures arising in the Commonwealth since 1978.

Ortizo cited the CNMI's overly generous tax structure, the untenable Retirement Fund system, an abused scholarship program, a crippled utilities corporation, and bloated government.

"Established by P.L. 1-30, the CNMI's tax structure remains one of the most generous tax systems in the world. In addition to being exempted from many federal taxes and paying only minimal local taxes, taxpayers in the CNMI receive a 50 to 90 percent rebate on their local taxes. …These rebates are essentially welfare checks that deprive our government of revenue it needs to provide essential services," Ortizo said.

The NMI Retirement Fund, Ortizo said, has degenerated into one of the most burdensome liabilities in the Commonwealth. He described the court judgment of over $231 million debt by the central government to the Fund as "dollars that might be taken from education, health care, and public safety for the sole benefit of retirees that have withdrawn more from the Fund than they ever contributed.

"Governor Fitial summed it up best in his 2009 State of the Commonwealth Address when he said that the Fund was a financially untenable system that was way too generous, that promised benefits that exceeded our government's ability to pay, and that could not possibly be sustained with falling revenues," he said.

Another entitlement program is the scholarship program that doles out $3 million worth of financial assistance every year, he said.

"Are those spent wisely? How many stories have we heard about college students using their scholarship money to buy clothes, video games, or beer? Of course one could argue that scholarship spending is a worthwhile investment toward an educated workforce…but many scholarship recipients either never return to the islands or never pay back what they owe," he said.

Ortizo said these policy failures have helped build a welfare state that doles out money as if it grew on trees.

Perhaps the most egregious of all entitlement programs is the government itself, Ortizo said, which has metastasized like a cancer into the largest employer of local residents in the Commonwealth.

Since the issuance of Executive Order 94-2 by former governor Froilan Tenorio that placed the Office of Personnel Management under the Executive Branch, the government has grown so much that, per capita, it is six times bigger than the entire Japanese government, he said.

After recommending some measures on how to solve these policy failures, Ortizo ended his speech by rephrasing the immortal words of the late U.S. president John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your government can do for you… ask what you can do for yourself, what you can do for your community, what we can do for our Commonwealth."

Other winners

The judges named Marianas High School's Adeleyah Mojica as the second best speaker while Marianas Baptist Academy's Micaela Demapan emerged in third place. Honorable mention went to Rota High School's Joycelynn Y. Atalig.

CNMI Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said yesterday he was very pleased with the outcome of the competition, and lauded the participation and involvement of present and past members of the Attorney General's Office.

Other contenders in yesterday's competition were Bianca Blanco of Grace Christian Academy; Lallane Guiao of Saipan Southern High School; Alexis Hofschneider of Kagman High School; and CheyAnne Leigh Humphries of Ladera International School.

Among the guests that attended yesterday's event were the competition's first champion in 1984, Dr. Norma S. Ada, and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos.

The contest was first organized by Justice Alexandro C. Castro in 1984.

ALIENS

From Page 1

These include conferring outright U.S. citizenship on these long-term aliens by an act of Congress, or granting them permanent residency status leading to U.S. citizenship, among examples of improved immigration statuses.

Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta said yesterday it would now be up to Congress whether to act on the Interior recommendation or go another route.

Babauta personally presented the Interior report to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Attorney General Edward Buckingham, labor officials, lawmakers and other local officials yesterday afternoon in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

He said he could not say when Congress will act on the Interior recommendation.

The Interior report states that a precedent for Congress granting long-term status to nonimmigrant workers was set by Public Law 97-271 in 1982.

This was when Congress gave more than 20,000 legal, long-time alien workers in the U.S. Virgin Islands the opportunity to apply for U.S. permanent residence. These alien workers had been in the territory for more than seven years on continuous residence.

"We raise the precedent of P.L. 97-271 not to suggest that it is necessarily an appropriate specific model for a provision for the CNMI," said the Interior report.

Should Congress act favorably on the Interior recommendation, some 15,816 aliens who have been estimated residing in the CNMI for "five years or more" will be covered, along with others who have been here for "three to five years," based on a Federal Labor Ombudsman accounting of aliens in the CNMI in December.

Babauta, in an interview with reporters, said Interior submitted the report to Congress toward the close of office in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, or about 8am yesterday Saipan time.

Options

Interior gave five examples of statuses under the INA and other U.S. immigration laws that Congress could consider, but the choices are not necessarily limited to those.

"Consistent with the goals of comprehensive immigration reform, we recommend that the Congress consider permitting alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum period of five years to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States," Babauta said, reading the report's recommendation.

Babauta, in his briefing with local officials, cited three sample statuses under the INA that Congress could consider:

1. Alien workers could be conferred U.S. citizenship by an act of Congress;

2. Alien workers could be conferred a permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship (per the normal provisions of the INA relating to naturalization), with the five-year minimum residence spent anywhere in the United States or its territories;

3. Alien workers could be conferred a permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship, with the five-year minimum residence spent in the CNMI.

Additionally, under U.S. immigration law, special status is provided to aliens who are citizens of Freely Associated States. Following this model:

1. Alien workers could be granted a nonimmigrant status like that negotiated for citizens of FAS, whereby such person may live and work in the United States and its territories;

2. Alien workers could be granted a nonimmigrant status like that negotiated for citizens of the FAS, whereby such persons may live and work in the CNMI only.

'Give us time to review the report'

Inos, during the briefing, wants the CNMI government be given ample time to review and comment on the Interior report.

Babauta said CNMI officials can submit comments to Congress.

Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat and House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro expressed disappointment with the report and its recommendation, citing a lack of study on the recommendation's impact on the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian population and lack of consultation with the local government and the indigenous residents.

But Babauta said there had been numerous meetings, consultations and hearings both in Washington, D.C. and the CNMI.

Babauta repeatedly said that the recommendation contained in the 20-page "Report on the Alien Worker Population in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" by the Interior secretary "is consistent with U.S. immigration and nationality laws."

Ogumoro and Kaipat said indigenous residents will have more difficulty competing with foreign workers for private sector jobs should Congress agree to Interior's recommendations.

Some nonresident workers are perplexed by some residents' opposition to any grant of improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

"Interior recommends U.S. citizenship for long-term foreign workers, not Chamorro or Carolinian citizenship. Why are they opposing that?" said one.

Another nonresident said the CNMI government cries foul over the "zeroing" out of nonresidents in the CNMI by 2014 as stated in the law yet do not want these same nonresidents to improve their status so they can continue to work and reside in the CNMI.

Babauta said after the transition period in 2014, all nonresident workers in the CNMI should be converted into any of the classifications under the INA.

"If they do not fall under any of the INA categories, then they may have to go back to their place of origin," Babauta said.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law sets a May 10, 2010, deadline for Interior to submit the report to Congress.

While Babauta was briefing top CNMI officials about the Interior report, Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown also held a briefing on the report for stakeholders including representatives of workers' groups, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Society for Human Resources Management, and lawyers.

Five requests

Babauta, who flew in from Guam yesterday, briefed CNMI officials about Interior's five responses and recommendation to Congress regarding alien workers in this U.S. territory.

On the first request about the number of aliens residing in the CNMI, Babauta said the estimated number as of January 2010 is 20,859, of which 16,304 are alien workers.

This is based on the accounting performed by the Federal Labor Ombudsman in December, during which the ombudsman asked aliens to register voluntarily.

"This is not a concrete number. It's an estimate….it can go up, it can go down," Babauta told local officials.

On request number two, Babauta said the federal government considers approximately 99 percent of the 20,859 aliens legally in the CNMI and thus, are not removable under section 212(a)(6)(A) of the INA. They include those with umbrella permits.

Request number three is about the number of years each alien has been residing in the Commonwealth.

Interior said there are 15,816 aliens who have been residing in the CNMI for five years or more; 2,221 who have been here for three to five years; 1,979 who have been here for six months to three years; 819 who have been here for less than six months; and 24 who did not declare their length of stay in the CNMI.

Request number four is about the current and future requirements of the Commonwealth economy for an alien workforce.

"For a sample of 10 Saipan Chamber of Commerce firms, the need for temporary alien workers is expected to increase by 15.9 percent between November 2009 and 2014," said Interior.

Request number five is recommendations to the Congress, as the Interior secretary may deem appropriate, related to whether or not the Congress should consider permitting lawfully alien workers lawfully residing in the CNMI to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States.

The federalization law was signed in May 2008 but its effective date was on Nov. 28, 2009.

Workers' request

Rabby Syed, board chairman of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said the organization is thankful to Interior, especially Babauta and Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown, for working on the report and recommendations, as well as for the briefings yesterday.

"The action taken by Interior to submit a report and recommendation on time is highly appreciated by the workers. …We hope that the U.S. Congress would act fast on Interior's recommendation," Syed said.

Syed was among the 25 to 30 stakeholders present at the Federal Labor Ombudsman's office for the briefing on the Interior report yesterday afternoon while Babauta was briefing CNMI government officials.

Syed said the United Workers Movement-NMI supports the first two statuses under the INA that Congress could consider, as recommended by Interior.

"We support conferring U.S. citizenship by Congress, or permanent residency leading to U.S. citizenship with the five years minimum residence spent anywhere in the U.S. or its territories, not only in the CNMI," he said.

The United Workers Movement-NMI, which represents thousands of foreign workers in the CNMI, will hold a general membership meeting on May 8, Saturday, 5pm, at the American Memorial Park amphitheater to discuss the Interior report.

Syed reiterated that the CNMI is a unique situation. He said unlike some 12 million illegal immigrants in the states, foreign workers in the CNMI entered legally, and are working and residing here legally.

"We are part of the U.S. system because we have our U.S. Social Security number, we have contributed so much, our families are here, we are part of the community," he added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday the Fitial administration will be reviewing the Interior report before coming out with an official comment.

DPS sees decrease in motorists' seat belt usage

The Department of Public Safety has seen a decrease in the use of seat belts among CNMI motorists in the past couple of years.

According to DPS, a seat belt survey in 2008 revealed a 90 percent usage rate among motorists in the CNMI. In 2009, another seat belt survey showed a slight drop at 89.8 percent.

A similar DPS survey in February 2010 showed a further decrease at 84.6 percent.

DPS said the regular use of seat belts is the single most effective way to protect people, reduce fatalities, injuries and lives.

To underscore the importance of using seat belts, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos signed a proclamation yesterday declaring May 24 to June 6 as Click It Or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization Month.

Inos also signed three other DPS proclamations: May 9 to 15 as CNMI Police Week and May 12 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day; May 16 to 22 as Emergency Medical Services Week; and May 16 to 22 as CNMI Safe Boating Week. Inos said these events are intended to honor the valor, service and dedication of its police officers.

Inos said it is also appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical service providers. The CNMI EMS team responded to a total of 5,563 emergency calls in 2009.

In 2009, Boating Safety officers responded to three drowning cases, five near drowning incidents, one stranded surfer, one missing surfer, and many other sea accidents involving jet skis, banana boats, and vessel-to-vessel accident.

Boating safety officers, he noted, also inspected 345 boats, conducted 1,392 hours of marine enforcement patrol, and responded to 36 distress calls. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Humanities Council elects new officers

The NMI Council for the Humanities elected a new slate of officers during its regular board meeting held Wednesday. They included Tracy M. Guerrero, chair, Dr. Peter Eche, vice chair, and Joann T. Aquino, secretary/treasurer.

The trio replaced former board officers Charles P. Reyes Jr., Lillian A. Tenorio, and William R. Barrineau who served as chair, vice chair and secretary/treasurer respectively.

Aquino

Eche

Guerrero

The Council's board of directors elects officers annually during its April board meeting.

Guerrero, who was elected to the Council's board in 2009, currently serves as director of Courts at the CNMI Judiciary. Before joining the courts, Guerrero spent six years as a senior analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in San Francisco. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of California at Berkley and an MBA from California State University at Hayward.

Eche is the former special training adviser for the CNMI government. He earned a PhD in management from Adamson University and has served as a consultant to a variety of multinational corporations over the past 15 years. Eche was elected to the board in 2006.

Aquino, elected to the board in 2009, currently serves as the director of Little Darlings Early Childhood and Respite Inc. and is responsible for overseeing the operations of three daycare centers. Aquino attended the University of Guam and Ashworth College and is active in a number of community and professional organizations in the CNMI.

Guerrero said that she is honored to have been selected as the chair by her colleagues. "I am grateful for the board's vote of confidence and will do my best to continue the important work of the Council."

ON THE NET

- www.nmihumanities.org

She noted that the Council is preparing for a major organizational assessment that will be conducted by the National Endowment for the Humanities in early 2011.

This involves developing a new five-year master plan and a self-assessment report in advance of a visit by a three-person team that will assess the effectiveness of the Council and its programs.

"The Council undergoes this evaluation every five years to remain eligible to receive annual support grants from NEH," Guerrero added.

Guerrero said the Council plans to implement a number of new programs over the next year including a weekly humanities radio program, a series of public discussions on Article XII, and an initiative on civic tourism.

She noted that Council priorities for the next five years will be developed by the Council as it prepares its new strategic master plan. Guerrero said that likely priorities would involve developing programs to ensure participation by underserved segments of the community, including Rota and Tinian, and fundraising, among others.

The Council is a 501 (c) (3) organization that was established in the CNMI in 1991. Additional information about the Council and its programs is available at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

TWEEN TALK TRAINING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On April 17, 2010, Teen Talk, a youth part of PSS' Youth Development program, trained 5th to 8th grade students from Kagman Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, San Antonio Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Hopwood Junior High School. The training topics were team building, social and cultural competency, and presentation skills.

CNMI, Rota histories highlight 2nd day of Chamorro conference

The second day of the Kumfirensian Lingguahin Finu'Chamorro last Thursday was highlighted by the presentations of two keynote speakers who are both former Rota mayors, according to conference chair Glenn H. Manglona.

Joseph S. Inos talked about the Chamorros during the Spanish administration and how the islands were discovered by Magellan and eventually sold to the Germans. Prudencio T. Manglona discussed the history of Rota and language in general.

According to chairman Manglona, other presenters for the second day of the conference included Associate Commissioner for Curriculum and Instruction Jackie Quitugua, Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita, the Marianas High School Chamorro Club, and Kumfirensian committee member Thomas Mendiola.

Chairman Manglona said that Quitugua did a "touching" presentation about the plans of the Public School System "not only to provide the Chamorro language in classrooms but also bring about the importance of speaking the language."

The MHS Chamorro Club performed a presentation related to the conference theme, "Tuungu', Sienti, yan Gu'aiya I Finu' Chamorro," which translates as "Think, Know, and Love Chamorro."

Chairman Manglona added that they also announced the winners for the story writing and painting contest among participating students from Rota Elementary School, Rota Junior High School, and Rota High School. The participants were asked to write a story and do a canvas that illustrates the theme of the conference.

Mendiola did a presentation explaining what Paug and the Paug ceremony are all about.

"Paug is an ancient ritual where each person is embarked on finding a name…the word is almost like you are acquainted to study that, and the definition of that word you were asked to take the concept and find out what's the best you would be able to give presentation regarding the name that you have chosen. It's almost like baptism, [that's] the closest term," he explained.

According to chairman Manglona, the second day elevated the conference to a new level. "It shows that the participants especially from the schools, the administrators, the seriousness now of making the language a part of the curriculum is alive and well. Through that, we recommend that we will continue to move forward in bringing about more, improving the English Chamorro dictionary so that we can project that to our students and have them use that daily, at home and in school and throughout the community," he added.

The three-day conference ended yesterday, Friday. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Offshore oil drilling: Lessons from the disaster

Last week's explosion and sinking of an oil-exploration rig off the coast of Louisiana prompted that state's Democratic Sen. Mary L. Landrieu to call for a federal investigation. She also said the rig's owners should "commit every available resource to learn from this tragic event."

Here's what we've already learned: Offshore drilling is more dangerous than industry apologists claim (11 men are believed to have died in the explosion), and it can have environmentally devastating impacts. Somehow, though, we suspect that's not the lesson Landrieu and other Democrats who hope to expand offshore drilling—including President Obama—will take from the disaster.

Democratic leaders have calculated that the way to attract Republican support for their efforts to fight climate change is to open more of the nation's coastline to drilling. Never mind that there is no sign Republicans want to play along, and that the sole GOP senator willing to even a discuss a climate bill, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, is backing out. Last month, Obama announced a plan to give oil companies access to large areas of the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Alaskan coastlines. Landrieu, meanwhile, has fought to add language to clean-energy bills that would grant states royalty payments for oil drilled off their coasts.

The crisis in the Gulf isn't changing many minds. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs shrugged off the ongoing oil leak, which could develop into the worst spill in U.S. history, by implying that it was just a fact of life. "I doubt this is the first accident that has happened and I doubt it will be the last," he said. Meanwhile, 42,000 gallons of oil a day are pouring from a well drilled by the downed rig. The Coast Guard is scrambling to collect and burn the escaping oil, but that probably won't be enough to head off environmental catastrophe—experts say the oil could reach environmentally sensitive areas on shore in a matter of days if the flow can't be stopped, and it may take months to plug the leak.

This kind of environmental tragedy isn't unprecedented—a similar rig explosion happened last year off Australia—and we'll probably be seeing it more often if Congress expands drilling off U.S. shores. There's a better way of using our coastal resources to generate energy. On Wednesday, the Obama administration approved the country's first offshore wind farm, a 130-turbine project off Massachusetts that is guaranteed never to foul beaches with tar or emit carbon into the atmosphere. Cape Wind is the future; the sunken Deepwater Horizon drilling rig represents a tarred past.

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Obama can shore up his popularity by pushing immigration reform

By JOHN D. GRAHAM
MCT

John D. Graham is dean of Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs and author of "Bush on the Home Front." He served as associate administrator of the Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush, and prior to that spent 16 years at Harvard's School of Public Health. Readers may write him at SPEA, Indiana University, 1315 East Tenth Street, Bloomington, Ind. 47405.

BLOOMINGTON, Ind.—With a razor-thin victory on health care behind him, President Obama must make a critical decision on his next legislative priority in order to maintain the momentum that is vital to Democratic prospects in the November elections and the future of the Obama presidency.

In making this decision, he should learn from President George W. Bush's error in delaying immigration reform until it was too late.

While Obama should push forward with financial reform, he should give immigration reform higher priority than energy because immigration is an issue that can unify most Democrats while attracting a significant number of Republican crossover votes in the Senate.

The president already has the executive authority he needs to pursue much of his agenda on climate change.

For example, the Environmental Protection Agency can establish a cap-and-trade program for carbon dioxide under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act. Obama has demonstrated he is willing to use executive power.

In addition to his recent decision to open new areas to offshore oil and natural gas development, he also signed an executive order in October to improve the federal government's environmental, energy and economic performance.

Some fear that raising the immigration issue will rev up the tea party movement and Rush Limbaugh. But they are already revved up! The Democrats can use the immigration issue to rally their own base.

Bush made a compelling case that immigration reform is good for America. Politically, immigration reform is also good for Obama and the Democratic Party. It will boost enthusiasm among the Hispanic community in November and dare the Republican leadership in Congress to commit virtual suicide with harsh anti-immigration rhetoric. After the national immigration debate of 2006, several anti-immigration Republicans were ousted from Congress.

In 2006, a Bush-encouraged plan co-sponsored by John McCain and Ted Kennedy passed the Senate 62 to 36. It contained a pathway to citizenship for the 12 million undocumented migrants living in the United States, plus a large increase in the number of green cards for future immigrants.

Although immigration reform was highly controversial, the McCain-Kennedy bill attracted 40 of 46 Democrats and 22 of 54 Republicans in the Senate.

The only reason the Bush-era bill did not become law is the refusal of the House Republican leadership to consider it. At the time, House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, acknowledged the deep divisions within his caucus over the issue.

Obama can learn from Bush's experience. Bush achieved success with his domestic policies by reaching out to moderate Democrats to help shape his agenda. He lured Sens. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and Ben Nelson, D-Neb., into supporting his energy legislation and employed a similar strategy in securing prescription drug benefits for seniors with Sen. Max Baucus. D-Mont.

Bush saw his political capital decline in a dramatic fashion when he took on issues with zero cross-partisan appeal, such as reforming Social Security and tort law.

Obama now has the opportunity to approach immigration reform from the Democratic side, bringing in moderate Republicans who supported immigration reform in 2006.

By combining border security with a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants, Obama should be able to find cross-partisan support at a key time in the election cycle.

In order to help lock down crossover Republican votes and defuse concerns about jobs, Obama's reform plan should not kick in until U.S. unemployment falls below 6 percent.

Obama's presidency will be strengthened by a bold legislative initiative on immigration reform. By working with Republican senators in key states mired in immigration issues while maintaining the support of his Democratic base, Obama has the opportunity to maintain legislative momentum.

In short, Obama would do well to consult the previous administration's domestic policy playbook.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Credit card debt, government reform and us

By BARRY H. GOTTLIEB
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I'd never dreamed anything could be more shocking than looking at my credit card balance, but that was before I opened this month's statement. There, staring me in the face, was a message informing me that if I paid the minimum balance each month, it would take 31 years to pay off the credit card. OK, the message wasn't staring; after all, it's just a message. But I swear I could hear it laughing.

Think about it. Thirty-one years. That's longer than it takes to pay off a mortgage, longer than most marriages last, and almost as long as Geraldo Rivera has been annoying us on TV, though it feels much longer. At least after a mortgage is paid off you have a house and can finally stop boring the kids with the lame joke that you don't own the house, the bank does. But with a credit card? What do you get after 30 years—a statement with a zero balance on it? Gee, I wonder who you could sell that to?

That wasn't the only good news the bank had for me. In an attempt to temper the shock, the credit card company went on to tell me that if I managed to pay the total off over the next 36 months rather than the rest of my life, I'd save $7,299 in interest. Yeah, and if I paid the whole thing off this month, I'd save that interest and much, much more, but don't you think I would if I could?

This homage to the Marquis de Sade—I mean, this important information—came courtesy of our federal government. The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 to be exact. Congress passed this law last year, proving that the old line about one of the world's biggest lies—"I'm from the government and I'm here to help"—works much better as a joke than as reality. While there may be bigger lies—"I never read People magazine" and "I swear I've been faithful to you, Sandra" come to mind—the point is, who thought this would be a help? Now I'm not only in debt, I'm depressed too.

I could have sworn the drug company lobby had its hands full with the healthcare reform debate. When did they find the time to make sure this bill went through so they could sell more Prozac and Wellbutrin to delusional people like me who thought they'd live to see their credit cards paid off?

Though now that I think of it, if it doesn't look like I'll live long enough to pay off the credit cards, then why should I pay more than the minimum?

To give Congress the benefit of the doubt, their actions probably stemmed from believing Sir Francis Bacon when he declared that knowledge is power. While their intentions might have been good, it's like my getting behind the wheel of a Formula 1 race car—too much power can endanger my well-being. That's why I'm strapping into my five-point seatbelt and putting on my helmet while I wait for the next wave of government-mandated "helpful" disclosures.

Of course there's one place where we really need a disclosure, but the odds aren't good that Congress will mandate this one. Suppose that a notice was printed on the ballot for the next presidential election, saying: "Voting for either of these candidates may mean four years of frustration and bad legislation, which will take three elections and several Supreme Court decisions to undo."

Now that knowledge would be power.

Barry Gottlieb, the author of If It's Such a Small World Then Why Have I Been Sitting on this Airplane for Twelve Hours?, *writes at maddogproductions.com. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

Letters to the Editor

A challenge and reality

I am issuing an open challenge to debate Article XII with my Uncle John Gonzales and anyone else on his show. I have only two requirements: 1. The debate will be completely in English. 2. The debate will be moderated by a news media person who must remain neutral and provide equal treatment and opportunities to debate the issues. I am sure people with common sense can already see the ironic and even paradoxical situation this places on the pro-Article XII supporters because it is certainly ironic that John Gonzalas is my uncle by marriage, we go to the same church and pray together, we're both spiritual brothers and have pledged our lives to the same spiritual teachings, we are even members of the same American political family but somehow he can find it in his heart to allow me to have my own house and lot next to his—see the problem. This situation truly reminds me of my childhood, the Jim Crow days, segregation and discrimination. It seems I have lived and prepared for this kind of debate my entire life and God knows I'm really looking forward to dealing with the biases and prejudices of Article XII. I love and respect my uncle but I respectfully disagree with his stance on Article XII.

I also hope this challenge will highlight the reality of how the culture of the CNMI is diametrically opposed to some of the politics of America. Local people don't normally challenge their relatives in public like I have just done because it is culturally wrong. But in the American political arena, a challenge is to be expected because a debate educates and provides the best possible solution. The arguments over Article XII are supposed to be intellectually based but the reality of a cultural response by many to my challenge and disagreement with Article XII is scorn, resentment and even hatred for challenging a family member publicly, especially an elder. To make it worse, I'm not a local person, so don't think I haven't studied the problem. I can't help but to feel sorry for those who don't realize they have placed an outdated cultural practice over the teachings of the Bible and the principles of America. Some cultural practices are not a perfect fit to the principles of America and education is the only tool with the capacity to bring down barriers and put everything into the proper perspective for the best decision on Article XII. I look forward to the debate and to educating the people because educating is one of the things that I do best!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Doing our part for the environment

This school year our Eco Club has been involved in different activities to keep our environment clean. A big part of our activities was beach cleanups. We picked up hundreds of pounds of trash from beaches including Ladder Beach, Pau Pau Beach, and Tanapag Beach, to name a few. Our Eco Club also joined with the rest of our school to take part in the 24th Annual International Coastal Cleanup. The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort to help protect the ocean, according to the Ocean Conservancy. Our Eco Club started the day before and cleaned along Beach Road, starting from Quartermaster all the way to MVA. The next day, Sept. 18, 2009, our whole school separated into two groups and helped clean Jeffries Beach and Wing Beach. Our school helped pick up trash at a total of three beaches during the International Coastal Cleanup.

We also decided to increase our recycling efforts. Our Eco Club made three recycling bins out of chicken wire for plastic, glass, and cans that we placed outside of our main office. We use them to deposit our recyclables into, including those we pick up at our beach cleanups.

This semester some students from our school teamed up with the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance to help raise awareness about the hazards marine debris pose to our marine ecosystem. We have done school presentations to different grade levels at schools like S.I.S. and Garapan Elementary School, and will be presenting at Brilliant Star School. Last month at Saipan Community School's Eco Karnival, our students helped at the MINA booth explaining to the community how long it takes for marine debris to decompose, like cigarette butts (10 years), plastic bags (35~60 years), plastic rings (450 years), plastic bottles (300~500 years), and glass bottle (more than 1,000 years!). If you've ever seen "Primo" (the yellow crowned butterfly fish found only in the Marianas) at a public event, chances are it was one of our students in the Primo costume.

To make a better community with a clean environment, citizens must work together. Every single piece of trash on the ground can be detrimental to the environment. Our Eco Club wants to inform everyone how much littering can harm our environment. We will continue to work in the future to keep the environment clean. Always remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Let's help keep Saipan and the rest of the Northern Mariana Islands clean and beautiful!

Yoon Jae Chung
Freshman, Northern Marianas Academy

Welcome back, Sam!

Kudos to Ms. Janet King, chairman of the NMC Board of Regents, members of the board, and the acting president of the college, for returning professor Sam McPhetres to the Northern Marianas College academic faculty. Sam's knowledge of the history of the CNMI's political status development is a state treasure. NMC students are fortunate to have him. I hope they take full advantage of the opportunity to pick his brain again.

May I suggest that the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, in cooperation with the CNMI State Board of Education, the CNMI State Historic Preservation Office, the CNMI Council for the Humanities and the CNMI Archives, request Sam to coordinate an in-depth review of the political status negotiations that led up to the creation of the Covenant agreement, including the technical agreement for the lease of Tinian and other CNMI lands, as well as the U.S. Senate debate on the joint congressional resolution that approved the Covenant.

Video recorded panel discussions moderated by Sam at the Northern Marianas College, under a controlled academic atmosphere, featuring former Political Status Commission president Edward Pangelinan, along with members Vicente Santos, Pedro A. Tenorio and others, along with Political Status Commission attorney Howard Willens and other D.C. staff, would be invaluable to not only the preservation of CNMI history, but also to CNMI current issues, in particular the pending military development of Tinian.

Again, congratulation to the NMC for "doing the right thing," and to the *Saipan Tribune* for giving this good-news story the front-page banner it deserves.

Welcome back professor McPhetres.

Don A. Farrel
Marpo Heights, Tinian

A few ideas to share

As Environmental Awareness Month comes to an end, I would like to share with the community some ideas on how we can help the environment. One simple thing that you can do is changing regular light bulbs in your home to eco-friendly compact fluorescent light bulbs. This not only helps the environment, it also saves you money in the long run. Did you know that putting a brick into the tank of your toilet saves water? The brick also displaces water, but still leaves enough to flush your toilet. Another simple idea is to plant more trees, like what Beautify CNMI has been doing. Trees produce oxygen in our atmosphere and also prevent runoff from getting into the ocean and harming the fish and coral. Here in the Marianas, we throw all sorts of parties such as christenings, baby showers, birthdays, novena finakpos, and anniversaries. Many times people leave their trash on the ground. To reduce the amount of trash, we can bring our own utensils from home for small parties, make sure we tie our balloons tight so that they don't end up in the ocean, and replace Styrofoam plates and cups with paper ones. For plastic forks and spoons, why not use chopsticks?

Did you know that in the Pacific Ocean there is a floating junkyard filled with all sorts of waste and trash, called the Pacific Garbage Patch? A lot of the trash left behind on the beaches ends up in the Pacific Garbage Patch because of the way the ocean's currents flow. It is the size of Texas! The problem is that sea life would get tangled in trash like ropes, plastic rings, and nets. About 80 percent of debris in the Pacific Garbage Patch comes from land, much of which is plastic bags, bottles and various other consumer products. Free-floating fishing nets make up another 10 percent of all marine litter, or about 705,000 tons, according to U.N. estimates. The rest comes largely from recreational boaters, offshore oil rigs and large cargo ships, which drop about 10,000 steel containers into the sea each year full of things like hockey pads, computer monitors, resin pellets and LEGO octopuses. A majority of the trash is plastic. Even though they eventually break down, smaller organisms like sea turtles mistake them for jellyfish and choke on it. There are ways that we can prevent the Pacific Garbage Patch from increasing and that is by reducing, reusing, and recycling materials and products we use in our everyday lives.

Angel Iglecias
Sophomore, Northern Marianas Academy

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

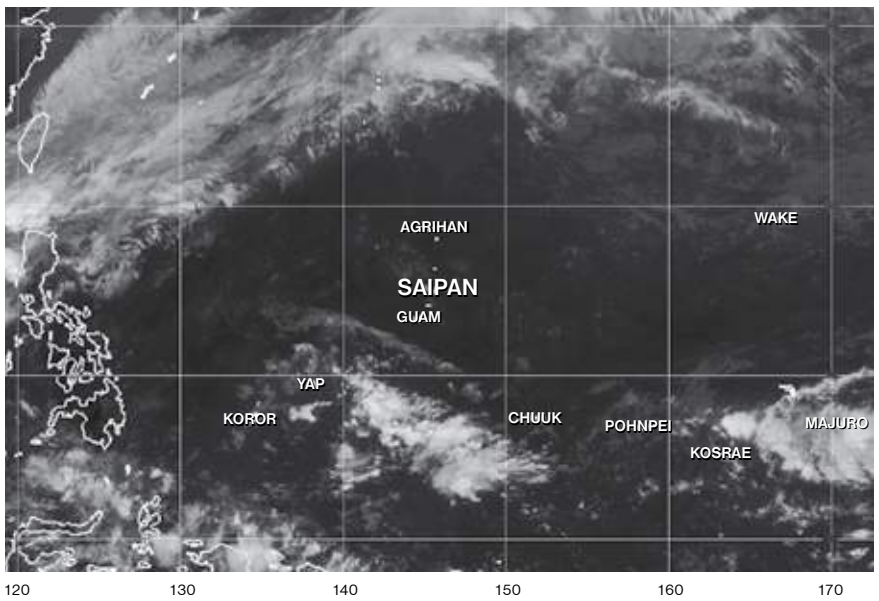
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Palau	Sunny	▲88	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲83	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲63	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼53
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲76	▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼71
London	Showers	▲57	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲71	▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼67
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼50
Paris	Cloudy	▲63	▼49
Pusan	Sunny	▲65	▼52
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼52
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲62	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲69	▼47
Tokyo	Sunny	▲68	▼52
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from southwest of Midway Island at 23N180E to west of Wake Island at 20N165E then continues northwestward as a stationary front to just north of 25N148E and turns southwestward to beyond 130E at 22N. Clouds and patchy rain are present along and up to 250 miles north of this boundary between 153E and 180. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are found along and north of the rest of the boundary to beyond 25N. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to create scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Yap between 7N and 11N from 138E to 143E and south of Guam and Chuuk or south of a line from 9N144E to 6N154E. Similar conditions are also evident southeast of Kosrae within 70 miles of a line from 5N165E to EQ169E and over Kosrae and Majuro between 5N and 8N from 162E to 173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:51 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:16 PM	7:47 AM
Sunday	10:10 PM	8:42 AM
Monday	10:59 PM	9:37 AM
Tuesday	11:43 PM	10:30 AM
Wednesday		11:21 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up:
Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road,
Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,
Koblerville		
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 1, 1999

Borrowers on track with home payments

Hundreds of beneficiaries of the government housing program still manage to meet their monthly mortgage despite the current economic crisis that has forced layoff and cut back in working hours in the private sector and in some CNMI agencies. The delinquency rate among home loan borrowers hovers around three percent which is low compared to commercial loans granted by the government lending agency, according to Marylou S. Ada, corporate director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. She said most families on the island have prioritized housing to make sure they meet their financial obligations to their creditors before spending their income for other household needs.

Illegals can list up as time ticks away

Illegal nonresident workers have still two more months until June 1 to come out from hiding and register under the limited immunity grant offered by the CNMI government, according to officials. Some of those availing the amnesty now are workers who are currently employed, but are not legally registered at the Department of Labor and Immigration. Jeff Camacho, head of the DOLI amnesty program, said they still continue to receive applications four months after it became law in December last year.

May 1, 2002

HMO equates to NMI savings

Since signing a contract with the Group Health and Life Insurance in September last year as its third-party administrator, the Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral has managed to save the government's insurance arm about $1.604 million in discounts and ineligible charges. Although he refused to furnish the media a copy of the report pending submission to the NMI Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees, HPMR president and chief executive officer Arnold M. Baptiste said that, since September 1 to March 31, his company processed a total of $2.402 million in on-island and off-island medical claims. Of that amount, $745,000 were found to be ineligible charges, which were then subtracted from the total charges.

NMI eyes 'silver club' market

To encourage the entry of what he calls Japan's "silver club" market, Rep. Stanley S. Torres has introduced a measure that would make it easier for Japanese retirees to enter and stay in the CNMI. House Bill 13-27 would specifically amend a section of the Commonwealth Code to establish a specific nonimmigrant entry permit category that would be somewhat comparable to the multiple-entry visa permit being issued by the U.S. government to selected tourists. Torres said there is an urgent need to spur economic development and provide incentives for foreign investment in the Commonwealth and this proposed measure, also known as the "Foreign Retiree Entry Permit Act," could be the key.

May 1, 2003

Proposal seeks flexible date for local polls

With the intent of increasing voter turnout, Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero is proposing a constitutional amendment that would give the governor and the Legislature flexibility to reset the date of the regular general election, in the face of an emergency or other extenuating circumstances. Article VIII § 1 and 4 of the CNMI Constitution provide for the regular general election to be held on the first Saturday in November. According to Guerrero, this provision is 'too rigid and inflexible' in that it does not allow for a postponement of the election should unforeseeable events or conflicts occur. The pre-filed Senate Legislative Initiative 13-7 cited that general elections in the past may have coincided with certain holy days observed by members of the local community.

Babauta to sign agreement with PSS for additional $1M in budget

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is pushing for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public School System following his decision to raise PSS' local funding to $38.3 million-an increase of slightly over $1 million from a previously approved budget for the system for fiscal year 2004. In a draft MOU, which was discussed and approved by the BOE committee on fiscal, personnel, and administration yesterday, Babauta specified that the additional budget would be used to increase the salaries of eligible PSS teachers and provide incentives to eligible early childhood teachers or those teaching kindergarten through third grade. This is part of the CNMI government's efforts to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act, which in part targets "to improve the core skills and the education of children in kindergarten through third grade."

Business

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Continental Micronesia's additional Boeing 737-700 aircraft will feature a Star Alliance livery.

Continental expands Guam-based fleet

HAGATNA, Guam—Continental Micronesia will increase its fleet from nine to 10 Boeing 737 Next Generation aircraft just in time to meet increased travel demand for the Japanese Golden Week holiday.

The additional Boeing 737-700 aircraft features a Star Alliance livery, which is Continental Airline—first aircraft with the Star Alliance livery in the Asia/Pacific region.

Continental Micronesia is adding the smaller Boeing 737-700 aircraft, which has 12 business class and 112 coach class seats, to complement its existing 737-800s and better match capacity to demand. The new aircraft is needed to support future and recently added service including Guam-Fiji, Guam-Majuro-Honolulu, Guam-Hong Kong, Guam-Osaka and also numerous charter operations between Japan and Micronesia. The first flight of the new aircraft will be from Guam to Tokyo's Narita Airport on May 1, 2010.

"Adding an aircraft to our fleet is a pretty big deal; it underscores our commitment to the region and our focus on ensuring we are able to meet the demand for air travel from tourists, the military, and the local population. This new airplane represents a $60 million investment in the local economy and is another example of Continental Micronesia's strong commitment as the"hometown airline of Guam and Micronesia" to provide clean, safe, and reliable air transportation. Continental will continue to be aggressive in pursuing opportunities for growth," stated Charles Duncan, Continental Micronesia's president and COO.

David Kendell, Continental Micronesia's director of sales and marketing said, "Joining the Star Alliance last year and becoming a member of the world's largest alliance has enabled Continental to provide our passengers with expanded travel options. I am excited to have a Continental Micronesia airplane with the Star Alliance livery serving the region. It will provide great awareness in the region that Continental is a proud member of the largest global alliance in both scope and size." ***(PR)***

BoG promotes Salas to VP

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is proud to announce the appointment of Patricia Benito Salas to the position of vice president/business development manager.

Salas

A 21-year banking veteran, Salas joins the Bank of Guam from Citizens Security/ANZ Bank where she was previously the Harmon Branch Manager and later a vice president relationship manager in the commercial loan department.

Salas is a graduate of the prestigious Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington. An alumna of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, Salas graduated from the University of San Diego with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. She is also past president of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay.

Salas now heads the business development and sales team covering Guam, the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the Bank of Guam.

For more information, contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258. ***(PR)***

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Hawaii lawmakers OK civil unions, send bill to gov

HONOLULU (AP)—A bill allowing same-sex civil unions that prompted some of Hawaii's biggest protest rallies is headed to the governor after the state House of Representatives gave it final legislative approval Thursday. The House voted 31-20 in favor of the measure, which passed the Senate in January. Republican Gov. Linda Lingle has not said whether she will make civil unions law or veto the bill. The measure grants gay and lesbian couples the same rights and benefits that the state provides to married couples. If it's signed into law, Hawaii will become one of six states—the others are California, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington—to grant essentially all the rights of marriage to same-sex couples without authorizing marriage itself.

Cops: NY man splashed bleach at Laundromat worker

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP)—Police say a New York man was so enraged at a Laundromat employee who he believed had lost some of his clothes that he hit her in the face with an open bottle of bleach. Randy Stith of Hempstead was charged Wednesday with assault and possession of a dangerous weapon. Nassau County police say Stith went to Laundry Place in Hempstead on Saturday to pick up the clothes he had dropped off to be laundered. They say he got in a fight with an employee over the missing clothes and pushed her against a table. Then, they say he hit her in the face with an open bottle of bleach. The bleach splashed into the woman's eyes. She was treated at a hospital. Police did not know if Stith had a lawyer.

LA woman convicted of killing pregnant woman

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles woman has been convicted of running over and killing a pregnant woman and her fetus following a brawl outside a gas station. A Superior Court jury found 23-year-old Unique Bishop guilty Thursday of two counts of second-degree murder. She was acquitted of three counts of attempted murder. Prosecutors say Bishop drove her car into a crowd of more than two dozen women outside a South Los Angeles gas station in November 2007. Twenty-two-year-old Shontae Blanche was killed, along with her fetus, and three other women were injured. Authorities say Bishop and a woman fighting over the same man met at the gas station to settle the dispute, and as many as 30 women were involved in the melee. They say Blanche and three others were walking away afterward when Bishop drove into them. Bishop faces 30 years to life in prison.

Gulf Coast oil spill could eclipse Exxon Valdez

VENICE, La. (AP)—An oil spill that threatened to eclipse even the Exxon Valdez disaster spread out of control with a faint sheen washing ashore along the Gulf Coast Thursday night as fishermen rushed to scoop up shrimp and crews spread floating barriers around marshes.

The spill was bigger than imagined—five times more than first estimated—and closer. Faint fingers of oily sheen were reaching the Mississippi River delta, lapping the Louisiana shoreline in long, thin lines.

"It is of grave concern," David Kennedy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told The Associated Press. "I am frightened. This is a very, very big thing. And the efforts that are going to be required to do anything about it, especially if it continues on, are just mind-boggling."

The oil slick could become the nation's worst environmental disaster in decades, threatening hundreds of species of fish, birds and other wildlife along the Gulf Coast, one of the world's richest seafood grounds, teeming with shrimp, oysters and other marine life. Thicker oil was in waters south and east of the Mississippi delta about five miles offshore.

AP

Two brown pelicans and a flock of seagulls rest on the shore of Ship Island as a boom line floats just offshore Thursday, April 29, 2010 in Gulfport, Miss.

The leak from the ocean floor proved to be far bigger than initially reported, contributing to a growing sense among many in Louisiana that the government failed them again, just as it did during Hurricane Katrina. President Barack Obama dispatched Cabinet officials to deal with the crisis.

Cade Thomas, a fishing guide in Venice, worried that his livelihood will be destroyed. He said he did not know whether to blame the Coast Guard, the federal government or oil company BP PLC.

"They lied to us. They came out and said it was leaking 1,000 barrels when I think they knew it was more. And they weren't proactive," he said. "As soon as it blew up, they should have started wrapping it with booms."

The Coast Guard worked with BP, which operated the oil rig that exploded and sank last week, to deploy floating booms, skimmers and chemical dispersants, and set controlled fires to burn the oil off the water's surface.

The company has requested more resources from the Defense Department, especially underwater equipment that might be better than what is commercially available. A BP executive said the corporation would "take help from anyone."

Government officials said the blown-out well 40 miles offshore is spewing five times as much oil into the water as originally estimated—about 5,000 barrels, or 200,000 gallons, a day.

At that rate, the spill could eclipse the worst oil spill in U.S. history—the 11 million gallons that leaked from the grounded tanker Exxon Valdez in Alaska's Prince William Sound in 1989—in the three months it could take to drill a relief well and plug the gushing well 5,000 feet underwater on the sea floor.

Ultimately, the spill could grow much larger than the Valdez because Gulf of Mexico wells tap deposits that hold many times more oil than a single tanker.

Doug Suttles, chief operating officer for BP Exploration and Production, had initially disputed the government's larger estimate. But he later acknowledged on NBC's "Today" show that the leak may be as bad as federal officials say. He said there was no way to measure the flow at the seabed, so estimates have to come from how much oil rises to the surface.

Obama takes immigration reform off the agenda

WASHINGTON (AP)—Immigration reform has become the first of President Barack Obama's major priorities dropped from the agenda of an election-year Congress facing voter disillusionment. Sounding the death knell was Obama himself.

The president noted that lawmakers may lack the "appetite" to take on immigration while many of them are up for re-election and while another big legislative issue—climate change—is already on their plate.

"I don't want us to do something just for the sake of politics that doesn't solve the problem," Obama told reporters Wednesday night aboard Air Force One.

Immigration reform was an issue Obama promised Latino groups that he would take up in his first year in office. But several hard realities—a tanked economy, a crowded agenda, election-year politics and lack of political will—led to so much foot-dragging in Congress that, ultimately, Obama decided to set the issue aside.

With that move, the president calculated that an immigration bill would not prove as costly to his party two years from now, when he seeks re-election, than it would today, even though some immigration reformers warned that a delay could so discourage Democratic-leaning Latino voters that they would stay home from the polls in November.

Some Democrats thought pushing a bill through now might help their party, or at least their own re-election prospects.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, whose campaign is struggling in heavily Hispanic Nevada, unveiled an outline—not legislation—on Thursday for an immigration bill at a packed news conference. Asked when it might advance, he declined to set an "arbitrary deadline."

If immigration goes nowhere this year, Democrats can blame Republican resistance, though in reality many Democrats didn't want to deal with an immigration bill this year either.

The Democrats' draft proposal, obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday, called for, among other things, meeting border security benchmarks before anyone in the country illegally can become a legal permanent U.S. resident.

Obama praised the outline and said the next step is ironing out a bill. He said his administration will "play an active role" trying to get bipartisan supporters.

Navy to allow women to serve on submarines

KINGS BAY NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE, Ga. (AP)—The first U.S. women allowed to serve aboard submarines will be reporting for duty by 2012, the Navy said Thursday as the military ordered an end to one of its few remaining gender barriers.

The cramped quarters and scant privacy aboard submarines, combined with long tours of up to 90 days at sea, kept them off-limits to female sailors for 16 years after the Navy began allowing women to serve on all its surface ships in 1994.

There were some protests, particularly from wives of sub sailors, after the military began formulating a plan last fall. But it received no objections from Congress after Defense Secretary Robert Gates notified lawmakers in mid-February that the Navy intended to lift the ban. The deadline for Congress to intervene passed at midnight Wednesday.

Rear Adm. Barry Bruner, who led the Navy's task force on integrating women onto submarines, brushed aside questions from reporters about the potential for sexual misconduct or unexpected pregnancies among a coed crew.

"We're going to look back on this four or five years from now, shrug our shoulders and say, 'What was everybody worrying about?'" said Bruner, the top sub commander at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in coastal Georgia, where the announcement was made.

The first group of women will consist entirely of officers assigned to guided-missile attack submarines and ballistic-missile submarines, which have the most living space in the Navy's fleet. They'll be assigned to two subs based at Kings Bay on the East Coast, and two others at the West Coast naval hub of Bangor, Wash.

US lawmaker backs deport of illegal immigrants' US kids

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Rep. Duncan Hunter said he would support deporting U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants, adding that "it takes more than walking across the border" to be an American citizen."

The San Diego-area Republican congressman spoke Saturday at a video recorded tea party rally in Ramona. Hunter was asked by someone in the crowd if he backed deporting natural-born American citizens who are the children of illegal immigrants.

"I would have to, yes," Hunter said.

Hunter said in the video that some of his critics believe his stance is mean-spirited.

"And we're not being mean. We're just saying it takes more than walking across the border to become an American citizen," he said. "It's what's in our souls."

The 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees citizenship to all persons born in the United States.

Hunter's spokesman Joe Kasper said Thursday that the congressman's position is that U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants should stay with their parents unless there is a legal guardian who could take care of them.

"It was a short answer to a complex issue," Kasper said. "His terms have been very specific on this topic and it wasn't reflected in the answer."

Hunter's comments on Saturday were recorded and posted on YouTube. Kasper said the event was open to the media and reporters were there.

Hunter also supports a House bill that calls for the elimination of automatic birthright citizenship for children born to undocumented immigrants. It is unclear whether the bill would be constitutional.

Hunter supports a recently signed Arizona law, which requires local and state law enforcement to question people about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country illegally. He called the law a "fantastic starting point."

Asia

Chinese reports say 5 children hurt in new attack

BEIJING (AP)—A farmer attacked and injured five kindergarten students with a hammer in eastern China before burning himself to death Friday in the latest in a string of horrific assaults on children at Chinese schools, state media reported.

The attacker used a motorcycle to break down a gate of the school in Shandong province's Weifang city, struck a teacher who tried to block him and then used the hammer to attack the children, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The assailant then grabbed two children before pouring gasoline over his body and lighting himself on fire, but teachers at the Shangzhuang Primary School were able to pull the children away to safety, Xinhua said. The man died, but none of the children had life-threatening injuries, Xinhua said.

Xinhua identified the attacker as Wang Yonglai, a local farmer, but had no further details.

China has been reeling from a series of attacks on schoolchildren, with the latest incident coming just a day after a 47-year-old unemployed man rampaged through a kindergarten in Taixing city in Jiangsu province, wounding 29 students aged 4 or 5 years old, five of them seriously.

Experts called that a possible copycat rampage triggered by similar incidents Wednesday and last month. They said the wave of school attacks falls amid poor care for the mentally unstable and growing feelings of social injustice in the fast-changing country.

The attacker in Taixing, identified as Xu Yuyuan, pushed his way into a classroom with an eight-inch (20-centimeter) knife after two teachers and a security guard failed to stop him. No motive has been given.

Xu had been a salesman in a local insurance company until he was fired in 2001. Since then, he has remained jobless, Xinhua said.

Thai protesters storm major hospital in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP)—A major hospital in the Thai capital evacuated patients and suspended all but emergency surgery Friday after anti-government protesters who occupy a nearby zone stormed in to hunt for security forces they suspected were positioned there.

A group of so-called Red Shirts broke into Chulalongkorn Hospital late Thursday despite pleas from its director, then withdrew back into their enclave after not finding soldiers or police within the sprawling compound.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who the protesters seek to overthrow, went on nationwide television to criticize recent Red Shirt actions that have paralyzed areas of central Bangkok.

"It's not necessary for me to condemn (the hospital break-in) since Thai society and the world community have already done that," he said, adding that the government would "not allow any movements that pose threats to the public."

Despite such warnings, the Red Shirts, who began their protests March 12 in their campaign to force immediate elections, have defied authorities at every turn, entering the Parliament building, laying siege to a telecommunications complex, blocking roads and staging mass motorized rallies in the Thai capital. At least 27 people have died and nearly 1,000 have been injured in outbreaks of street violence.

Security forces have in almost every instance been unable or unwilling to stop the Red Shirt forays, including the incursion into the century-old public hospital, which feared a second break-in Friday.

Report: Japan issues warrant for anti-whaling boss

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese Coast Guard has obtained an arrest warrant for the leader of the Sea Shepherd environmental group for its disruption of Japan's annual whale hunts, media reports said Friday.

The move would be the latest in an increasingly aggressive campaign against the radical conservationists by Tokyo, which accuses them of endangering lives during the Antarctic hunt. U.S.-based Sea Shepherd has long insisted that the Japanese fleet is conducting banned commercial whaling under the guise of scientific research.

The warrant is for Paul Watson, the Canadian founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, on suspicion of assault and obstruction of business, Kyodo News agency reported, citing investigative sources. It did not say which court issued the warrant.

Watson, who was believed to be in New York, said in a statement that he was being targeted by Tokyo because of the damage his anti-whaling campaigns have caused.

"The Japanese government is desperate to stop the Sea Shepherd ships from returning to the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary for the 2010 and 2011 season. There is no doubt that the motives of the Japanese Coast Guard and the Japanese government are political," he said in a statement.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea ship sinking may be perfect crime for North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—For North Korea, the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship a month ago may end up being the perfect crime. Investigators have yet to produce proof that North Korea engineered the ship's demise, but analysts say even if they do, Seoul won't risk triggering another costly war by striking back militarily. And if there's no evidence pointing to North Korea, its government may still quietly claim it as a victory to bolster support at home. As South Korea honored the 46 dead sailors in an emotional farewell Thursday, the question of what struck the Cheonan remained unsolved, casting a pall over North Korea's relationships with Seoul and Washington and calling into question the future of stalled six-nation nuclear disarmament talks.

Radioactive material in scrapyard in India kills 1

NEW DELHI (AP)—A scrap dealer who dismantled a machine once used by the chemistry class of a major Indian university died of radioactive poisoning, police said Thursday, raising concerns about the country's ability to safely dispose of hazardous waste. The dealer died Monday in New Delhi after being among workers who sawed open a gamma cell that Delhi University had auctioned off in February, a police statement said. Seven other workers are being treated for radiation exposure. Police traced the cell to the school's chemistry laboratory, where it had been lying around unused for more than 25 years. Students had used it in the 1970s to study the radiation effects of various chemicals, said police officer Sharad Aggarwal.

Pakistan Taliban chief said to survive US attack

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan and U.S. intelligence wrongly reported the death of the head of the Pakistani Taliban in a CIA drone strike and the brash, ruthless commander is now believed to be alive, Pakistani spies said Thursday in an apparent propaganda coup for the insurgents. The reports that Hakimullah Mehsud survived the January missile attack in an area close to the Afghan border will raise questions about the quality of the intelligence being gathered in the region. In Washington, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said he had seen "no evidence" that Mehsud "is operational today or is executing or exerting authority over the Pakistan Taliban as he once did." "So I don't know if that reflects him being alive or dead, but he clearly is not running the Pakistani Taliban anymore," Morrell told reporters.

World

EU official: Deal on Greece aid ready in few days

AP

European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn speaks during a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, April 29, 2010.

BRUSSELS (AP)—European and German officials assured markets they were working quickly on approving a bailout for Greece as they try to keep the country's debt crisis from dragging others into a continent-wide financial meltdown.

European Union monetary affairs commissioner Olli Rehn said Thursday he was "confident the talks will be concluded in the next days."

He said negotiators from the EU, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary fund were "working day and night" to finish details of a bailout that would avoid a wider crisis and "safeguard the financial stability in Europe and globally."

Rehn's appearance at the European Commission's daily news briefing was scheduled at the last minute and appeared to be designed to reassure financial markets that the money will come through and a Greek government debt default was not on the cards.

Markets have been in turmoil over the last few days as the seemingly never-ending Greek crisis threatened to drag other countries like Portugal and Spain into the mire.

"Rehn's appearance means that we expect this deal to be wrapped on the weekend," said an EU official who asked not to be named.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has pushed for strict conditions on help for Greece, said that "Germany will help as soon as the preconditions for that are there. We expect a result in a few days. After that, we in Germany will set our legislative process in motion."

Brown loses gamble in final TV debate

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP)—Britain's final TV election debate Thursday saw Prime Minister Gordon Brown scrap for his political future in the most combative showdown of the campaign, trading sharp exchanges with his two chief rivals a day after an embarrassing campaign gaffe.

Brown, who has been free-falling in the opinion polls for weeks, wasted no time ahead of the May 6 election. He threw a joke in his opening remarks in hopes of neutralizing Wednesday's blunder, in which he was caught calling a retired Labour voter a "bigoted woman" after she badgered him on immigration and he forgot to remove his microphone.

But his delivery fell flat. Analysts said Brown's performance failed to wow voters.

"There is a lot to this job, and as you saw yesterday I don't get all of it right," Brown said. "But I do know how to run the economy—in good times and in bad."

The first US-styled debates have spurred an unexpected transformation in Britain's politics and shaped the election, one of the closest in decades. Months ago, the Conservatives' David Cameron was favored as the clear winner but he was eclipsed after the first domestic debate when Nick Clegg, leader of the perennially third-placed Liberal Democrats, stole the show. Clegg remained a contender in a potential coalition government if no party wins a clear majority, while analysts all but started writing Brown's political obituary.

Britain faces mammoth economic troubles with the one of the largest deficits in Europe—a 152.8 billion pound ($235.9 billion) sum racked up during the global financial crisis.

WORLD BRIEFS

Rescue mission under way for Mexican journalists

OAXACA, Mexico (AP)—Police and rescuers failed to find two journalists stranded for a third day among feuding militants in a remote village after their caravan of Mexican and European rights activists was caught in a deadly ambush. Authorities struggled to locate the missing journalists Thursday near the remote Triqui Indian town of San Juan Copala, where a violent dispute between rival political factions has reportedly cut off basic supplies and services to residents. The convoy members killed were Finnish human rights activist Jyri Jaakkola, who reportedly came to document deteriorating conditions in the village, and Mexican political activist Beatriz Carino Trujillo.

Belgium bans burqa-type dress in public

BRUSSELS (AP)—Belgium's lower house of parliament on Thursday banned burqa-type Islamic dress in public, but the measure faces a challenge in the Senate which will delay early enactment of the law. Christian Democrats and Liberals in the Senate questioned the phrasing of the law, which holds no one can appear in public "with the face fully or partly covered so as to render them no longer recognizable." Following the fall of Premier Yves Leterme's government April 22, Belgium faces early elections that may delay passage of the Belgian anti-burqa ban—Europe's first—by several months. Both houses of parliament must approve the bill. Approval in the lower house was almost unanimous.

US gives $7.5M more for Taylor war crimes trial

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—The United States is giving an additional $7.5 million to help pay for Charles Taylor's war crimes trial. The U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp made the announcement Thursday in Sierra Leone's capital. Taylor, the former president of neighboring Liberia, is accused of funding Sierra Leonean rebels infamous for hacking off the lips, ears and limbs of their victims. Taylor has denied the allegations. Rapp, who previously served as Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, said that significant contributions also have come from the UK, Canada, the Netherlands and Norway.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, May 1, 2010

AS MAY 10 DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR

More than 650 voters yet to turn in ballots

With only nine days left before the May 10 deadline, more than 650 registered Filipino overseas absentee voters who have picked up their ballot packages have yet to turn them in to the Philippine Consulate General office.

In an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune,* Consul General Medardo Macaraig said that, along with the 1,202 ballots turned in as of April 29, a total of about 2,000 ballots will eventually be submitted to the Commission on Election in Manila.

Macaraig

As of the close of voting yesterday, 64 additional ballots have been accounted for by the Consulate.

Macaraig reiterated his request to all registered Filipino absentee voters in the Commonwealth who have yet to cast their votes to turn in their accomplished ballots for the 2010 Philippine national elections and not wait for the deadline.

The last day of voting is on May 10.

According to Macaraig, more ballots are turned in on weekends, based on their experience in the last two weeks.

"The Consulate would most likely receive more ballots during last two weekends [May 1-2 and May 8-9] and on the last day," he added.

Macaraig emphasized the importance of this election for Filipinos, saying that overseas absentee voting is "a way by which OFWs [overseas Filipino workers] can participate in choosing the next leaders of the Philippines."

Macaraig said that they've made use of all possible means to reach out to all the voters. "We have utilized a number of means to disseminate the information—through the press [newspapers, radio programs], Filipino community organizations, churches, e-mails, etc."

Rota, Tinian voters

Out of the 7,169 registered Filipino overseas absentee voters in the CNMI, about 4 percent or 272 are from Rota and Tinian, according to Macaraig.

"They have to call the Consulate so we can verify their identities and send them their ballot packages through the mail," Macaraig explained. He added that these voters can fill out their ballots and send them back to the Consulate by mail on or before May 10.

Macaraig confirmed that the Consulate contacted Filipino organizations, even parishes, on Rota and Tinian so they could help spread the word.

In fact, some of the ballots that have been submitted to the Consulate are from Rota and Tinian, Macaraig said.

Other than personally turning in their accomplished ballots to the Consulate, registered voters on Saipan also have the option to submit the ballots by mail. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

As of April, 72,034 of 500K OFWs voted worldwide

MANILA, Philippines—A total of 72,034 of the half a million Filipinos overseas absentee voters already cast their ballots in the various Philippine Embassies and Consulates General worldwide, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a news release Wednesday.

According to the DFA Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat as of Tuesday, most of the voters were in Hong Kong, with 21,459 ballots; Riyadh, with 5,897 voters; and Singapore, with 4,199 ballots.

Other foreign service posts with the highest number of voters are the following: the Philippine consulate general in Jeddah (3,345), the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Al Khobar (2,545), the Philippine consulate general in Los Angeles (2,162), the Philippine embassy in Kuwait (2,160), the Philippine embassy in Abu Dhabi (1,682), the Philippine consulate general in New York (1,467) and the Philippine embassy in London (1,369).

Some embassies and consulates general also reported that they have surpassed the number of votes they received during the 2004 Presidential Elections and the 2007 Senatorial Elections.

"We are confident that the number of voters will increase in the remaining days of overseas absentee voting and that our embassies and consulates general will exceed their 2004 and 2007 figures," DFA-OAVS chairman and Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said.

Seguis also said that embassies and consulates general are continuing their "get out and vote" drives to inform Filipinos in their areas to vote early to avoid the queues at the polling places on the last day of voting.

Most embassies and consulates are open to the public seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until May 10 at 6 p.m. (Philippine time). ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Maghanoy's 'Fir Blossoms' takes 3rd prize in art tilt

Reuben Maghanoy found out about the art competition sponsored by Bridge Capital, LLC through the newspaper. Since he already has an artwork he made the previous year in mind, he decided to join the contest.

It was a good decision on Maghanoy's part. His acrylic on canvass, "Fir Blossoms," was awarded 3rd prize in the open competition and won him $500.

Maghano y hoped to win. "My wife was really the one who prayed for me to win, to be given a break, be recognized," he shared in his native tongue.

Maghanoy says it took him two weeks to finish "Fir Blossoms." He did the painting in the early part of 2009.

"Checkmate," another entry he submitted for the art competition, depicts overlapping chest pieces. This, he said, was done sometime in January or February of this year.

A graphic artist by profession, Maghanoy used to work at Channel 7 in the Philippines before he came to Saipan in 1974.

When he and his wife became CNMI permanent residents, Maghanoy decided to put up their own offset printing business called R&M Printing, located on Lower Navy Hill.

"That's when I started doing printed artwork," he says, but never really got into actual painting because of his business.

"I went full swing [painting] when I retired in 2009," Maghanoy said.

About five years ago, Maghanoy spearheaded a Filipino artists' guild that they called *Obra.* Sadly, its members became so busy with their respective jobs that it has become inactive. Even Maghanoy himself got occupied with R&M Printing.

Now that he's retired, Maghanoy plans to revive *Obra.*

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bridge Capital chief operations officer John R. Mulder, center, poses with Reuben Maghanoy, left, after presenting him with his cash prize for winning third place in the art competition sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC. Other photo shows Maghanoy's painting, "Fir Blossoms."

Aside from *Obra,* he dreams of putting up an art gallery where all Filipino artists on island, including digital graphic artists, can put on display their own masterpieces. "I want to help Filipino artists," Maghanoy adds.

A father of two, Maghanoy reveals that the artistic genes definitely run in the family. His son, who is now based in Los Angeles, California, is also a graphic artist while his wife is into crafts and quilts.

Maghanoy encourages other Filipino artists to participate in creative endeavors such as the art competition so they can promote their talents. He believes that these endeavors are avenues for them to meet individuals or groups who can support them in their artistic undertakings. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

RP consulate marks austere Labor Day

Today, Filipinos all over the world observe *Araw ng Paggawa* or Labor Day, a non-working holiday that honors all tireless, dedicated workers in the country.

In the Philippines, Labor Day is usually marked by rallies and demonstrations by labor groups to express their grievances and demand for improved working conditions for all laborers.

Here on Saipan, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office would sponsor lunch or dinner for members of various Filipino organizations to honor the occasion.

This year's celebration, however, would be austere, according to labor attaché Carmelina R. Francisco-Velasquez.

Velasquez said that they will serve breakfast for the workers at the Filipino Workers Resource Center.

The celebration, she said, is POLO's way of recognizing the workers on island and "their sacrifices and their contribution to the Philippine economy."

Velasquez wants Filipino workers to view Labor Day as another opportunity to be appreciative despite the challenging times.

"Labor Day is an occasion to remind the remaining Filipino workers in the CNMI to be thankful for the jobs they have now and that we are with them and will continue to protect their interests and look after their welfare," she added.

Consulate and POLO unite

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig said that Labor Day remains significant "regardless of the difficulties posed by economic circumstance."

For this reason, the Consulate, in partnership with POLO, will launch a program that presents an alternative for Filipino workers here in the CNMI in time for the Labor Day festivity.

The "Gabay sa Negosyo" project aims to supplement the existing training programs of POLO.

The project includes instructional materials from Technology Resource Center about different livelihood programs in video and print.

"Gabay sa Negosyo" aims to educate Filipino workers about alternative source of livelihood, like putting up a business.

"Hopefully, Filipino overseas workers would take advantage of this program and be successful in whatever livelihood endeavor they would choose," Macaraig said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

'We really feel we've won,' says Aquino sister

By JOAN BRODETH M. TOLING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MASBATE CITY—"As it is, we really feel we've won," Viel Aquino Dee, younger sister of presidential front-runner Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, said in a visit here Thursday as guest speaker at the launch of Yellow Force-Masbate Chapter.

Dee was reacting to the latest Pulse Asia Inc. survey showing her brother, the Liberal Party (LP) standard-bearer, getting 39 percent.

She said it would be hard to accept if her brother would not win the presidential election.

"I cannot say that Pulse and SWS are unreliable. I have a feeling whatever the pulse is now, it will really come out in May 10—assuming there is no cheating," she said.

Dee arrived in Masbate Airport at around 8:40 a.m. and proceeded to the municipality of Mobo and had breakfast at the town plaza.

Mobo Mayor Percival Castillo is a reelectionist under the Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

Locals shifting

Masbate is a known administration province but as surveys show that Aquino's lead is increasing, local candidates are shifting track and are supporting Aquino.

AP

Presidential candidate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is greeted by supporters during his campaign sortie at Bulacan province, north of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday, April 28, 2010.

Asked about the new Aquino supporters, Dee said "as long as they have the same platform and like-mindedness, everyone is welcome to join LP."

"Anyone supporting Noy is very good for us," she added.

Just 76 km from the city, Nacionalista Party senatorial candidate Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. went to Khokak Beach Resort in Cataingan town. The resort is owned by spouses Rep. Antonio Kho of the 2nd district of Masbate and Gov. Elisa Kho.

Vice gubernatorial candidate Jamon Espares told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that Marcos arrived at around 10 a.m. to seek the support of the Khos.

After two hours, Marcos left for Malolos, Bulacan, by helicopter, Espares said. Marcos was supposed to campaign in the city.

On the other hand, Dee caught up with the noon trip of a fastcraft to Pilar, Sorsogon.

Why Villar ratings fell: He's been on defensive

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The adverse publicity hounding Nacionalista Party (NP) standard-bearer Manuel "Manny" Villar has taken a toll on his campaign and it will be difficult for him to catch up with Liberal Party presidential candidate Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, political analysts said Thursday.

"(Villar) should have … shifted his strategy from merely defending himself to going on a counteroffensive," said professor Bobby Tuazon, policy director of the University of the Philippines-based Center for People Empowerment and Governance.

"Since the beginning of this year, the camp of Manny Villar has been the target of negative stories that have a negative impact on his credibility and integrity," Tuazon told the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Tuazon said that it was difficult for a presidential candidate to remain on the defensive because the positive effects of being perceived as an underdog would not last.

"It would have been more prudent for the handlers of Manny Villar to devise a more flexible approach," Tuazon said.

Tuazon said the Villar camp could have done a better job of questioning Aquino's preparedness, leadership and performance.

Ramon Casiple, executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms, said Villar's problem was two-fold.

One was how to arrest his own slide in the surveys in the remaining days of the campaign and the second was how to catch up to Aquino.

"[Villar] wasn't able to surge ahead in March and in April. It's unlikely that he would be able to catch up at this time," Casiple told the Inquirer.

"This has the makings of a landslide win for Noynoy," he added.

Insignificant increase

Asked about former President Joseph Estrada catching up with Villar for a tie in second place, Holmes said it was more of Villar losing ground rather than the former president gaining more voters.

"That's marginal. That's insignificant," Holmes said of Estrada's 2-percentage-point increase in the latest survey. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Villar's slide, however, was "borderline significant" at 5 percentage points, Holmes said.

One of the developments at the time of the survey was Estrada and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile's allegation that Villar influenced the Philippine Stock Exchange board of directors into relaxing its rules and allowing the sale of Villar's own shares in his Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., despite a lockup provision.

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Tayag clarifies difference between political party, partylist

In a move to clarify the difference between a political party and partylist, Bandila representative Bishop Nilo S. Tayag said a party works to get hold of the entire government while a partylist either works for sectoral interests and sectoral ideological advocacies.

"The root words for political party are 'polis' or affairs of the state and 'part' of the whole, meaning while only a part, it purports to work for the entire society through its chapters/branches, from the municipal, provincial, regional and national levels," he said.

"A partylist, on the other hand, aggregates, articulates and implements sectoral interests; in our particular Philippine case, for the marginalized sectors supposedly," he added.

Tayag issues the clarification in reaction to some voters who confuse political parties with the partylist system. In one instance, a Bandila poster on Saipan was defaced with the statement *"Noy and Mar tayo. Huwag natin sayangin ang boto. LP tayo."*

Tayag

Tayag emphasized that partylist can remain advocates of an ideological line without getting into positions of power.

"It can work for policy changes for the benefit of a sector or sectors. In short, a partylist does not necessarily work to gain positions of power but also for policy changes," Tayag said.

As such, the partylist is limited in scope compared to a full-blown national political party with candidates for national and local positions.

"Platform, vision of a future society with theory of Philippine society and laws of its social development, these are the elements of an ideology that must be satisfied by a political party worth its name," Tayag added.

Bandila, which Tayag represents, is one of the many partylists running for a position in the Philippine Congress in the May 10, 2010 national election.

Tayag studied Political Science at the University of the Philippines and was chairperson and president of the Student Cultural Association of UP. His participation in the student movement culminated in his sudden arrest before the imposition of martial law. He was imprisoned for at least 11 years, charged with subversion and rebellion. He was released in 1981,

He is currently a bishop of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente and a 32º Scottish Rite Mason of Quezon City Bodies. ***(PR)***

'Middle East, Asia fail to protect domestic workers'

KUALALUMPUR—Middle East and Asian nations, which draw millions of foreign domestic workers, have failed to take action to tackle widespread abuse of the vulnerable women, Human Rights Watch said.

"The reforms undertaken by Middle Eastern and Asian governments fall far short of the minimum protections needed to tackle abuses against migrant domestic workers," the US-based group said.

"Despite recent improvements, millions of Asian and African women workers remain at high risk of exploitation and violence, with little hope of redress," it said in a report launched ahead of International Labor Day on May 1.

The report focused on Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Singapore. HRW said that several nations had made improvements but far more must be done.

"In general, reforms have been slow, incremental, and hard-fought," said Nisha Varia, the group's women's rights researcher.

"Jordan deserves credit for including domestic work in their labor law, but enforcement remains a big concern. Singapore has prosecuted physical abuse against domestic workers vigorously, but fails to guarantee them even one day off a week."

Households across the region rely on foreign maids to cook, clean and care for children and the elderly. Saudi Arabia alone absorbs 1.5 million foreign domestic workers, and there are 196,000 in the tiny city-state of Singapore.

The workers come from Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and other countries in Asia and Africa, and their earnings contribute billions to their home countries, often making up a good chunk of those economies.

HRW said the women are too often subjected to physical and sexual violence, forced isolation in private homes, excessive working hours with no rest, and unpaid wages for months of hard labor.

"Reforms often encounter stiff resistance both from employers used to having a domestic worker on call around the clock, and labor brokers profiting handsomely off a poorly regulated system," Varia said.

"Governments should make protecting these vulnerable workers a priority."

HRW called on governments to bring domestic workers under the protective umbrella of labor laws, reform repressive immigration laws that contribute to abuse, and ensure police and courts respond to abuse cases. ***(Agence France-Presse)***

NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AP

New U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas walks with troopers during the arrival honors at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines where he meets Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to submit his credentials on Tuesday April 27, 2010.

Harvard picks Ople for 2010 Alumni Award

MANILA, Philippines—The Harvard Kennedy School Alumni Association has chosen Nacionalista Party senatorial aspirant and staunch migrant Filipino workers advocate Susan "Toots" Ople as the recipient of the 2010 Alumni Achievement Award.

The announcement was made by Rudy Brioche, chairman of the Harvard Alumni Association, who stressed that Ople was chosen among several nominees because of her achievements in fighting human trafficking.

The HKS Alumni Awards program is administered by the HKS Alumni Association and Alumni Office. It was created in 1997 to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the outstanding work and contribution of HKS Alumni throughout the world in all sectors and fields. Each award highlights the myriad ways that HKS Alumni have answered President John F. Kennedy's challenge, "Ask what you can do."

The Alumni Achievement Award honors HKS graduates who have made a significant difference in their arena of work and community as their careers develop.

"Your advocacy work against human trafficking and the protection of migrant workers in the Philippines demonstrates that dedication, organization, and courage can have a significant impact on the lives of people who have been victimized and often forgotten. Your work inspires your fellow HKS alumni and the entire Harvard community," Brioche wrote Ople.

The awarding ceremony is on May 14, a few days after Election Day.

"This is a real honor not only for me, but also for our country, and significantly for all the trafficked victims that I have helped throughout the years. Our fight to obtain justice for all of them continues," said Ople.

The Nacionalista Party senatorial bet was instrumental in the rescue of 17 women from Damascus in Syria, 137 bus drivers stranded in Dubai, and countless victims of human trafficking from Malaysia.

The Blas F. Ople Policy Center, a non-government organization created by Ople in 2004, also provides free computer literacy training to OFWs and their families in partnership with Microsoft and the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration. Over 20,000 Filipinos have benefited from the Microsoft-OWWA Tulay Program on computer literacy which the former labor undersecretary initiated in 2004.

Ople said ever since her father died six years ago, she has dedicated her life to helping distressed overseas Filipino workers. "This is a promise I gave to my father, which I will fulfill whatever happens on May 10." ***(INQUIRER.net)***

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Imelda Marcos' sequestered jewelry to be shown—PCGG exec

MANILA, Philippines—Former First Lady Imelda Marcos' sequestered jewelry will go on public display before President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's term ends in June, a member of the Presidential Commission on Good Government said Friday. Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said the planned exhibit would prove that the collection, which the Aquino government seized following the 1986 People Power Revolution that ended the 20-year rule of Ferdinand Marcos, has remained intact even under the Arroyo administration. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

2 killed, 2 hurt in Albay shooting

ALBAY, Philippines—Police are looking into the motive for the killing of a couple and the wounding of their two children by undetermined men who sprayed their house with bullets Thursday night. In an interview Friday morning, Chief Inspector Robert Bellen, Oas chief of police, said members of the family were inside their home at around 7 p.m. in Barangay (village) San Miguel when the gunmen peppered their house with bullets. Bellen identified the couple as Ronald Marco Adonis, 31, and Rochele Tupasi, 32. Their children, Ronald Jr. and Roderic, who were wounded in the attack, were undergoing treatment at the Josefina Belmonte Duran Memorial District Hospital in Ligao City. Investigators recovered empty 9-millimeter pistol shells from the crime scene. ***(Inquirer Southern Luzon)***

Bomb blast misses Mangudadatu convoy

MANILA, Philippines—A roadside bomb went off near the national highway in Ampatuan, Maguindanao Friday morning, missing the convoy of Buluan town mayor and Maguindanao gubernatorial candidate Ismael "Toto" Mangudadatu, police said. Citing initial reports, provincial police chief Senior Superintendent Alex Lineses said the improvised explosive device went off at Purok 1, Barangay (village) Cauran 10 a.m., where the convoy of Mangudadatu passed by. No one was reported hurt in the incident. Reached by phone, Lineses said initial investigation indicated that Mangudadatu was not the target of the attack. "Nagkataon lang [It just so happened]," he said. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

ASK Dr. NOET

Marriage and money

By DR. JOHNNY NOET RAVALO
INQUIRER.NET

I have been working for several years now (am 31 years old) but have been jumping from one job to another. As a lawyer, I have recently shifted my career towards working in the financial market. I just started with a new and good paying job, saving a healthy portion of my income after spending on my basic needs and expenses for my parents' needs. My parents have been hinting about "grandchildren" but I am honestly very worried whether I can afford married life. I would appreciate some insights please.—Marc

Building sand castles in the sky that can withstand strong wind requires that you firmly plant your feet on solid ground. That solid ground says that married life is not a free ride, figuratively and certainly not financially.

From a financial standpoint, the two constraints that define almost everything are savings and cash flows.

Savings will be used for lumpy expenses. The wedding and the honeymoon are the first two of these lumpy expenses. The more you want—more guests, better menu, better travel accommodations—the more it will cost. There are no fancy rules or savings tips, just a lot of personal choices that affect your checkbook. For planning purposes Marc, it is always prudent to assume that payments for these costs come straight out of your savings.

Next come the recurring expenses and this is where your salary is the central factor. More often than not, housing will be the most dominant expense. Whether it is rent or an amortization, this expense must be planned carefully.

The starting point is income. To even be considered today for a P2-million housing loan payable over 15 years, your gross monthly salary must be at least P75,000. Based on market rates as I write this piece, the amortization for this loan will be in the area of P24,000 a month.

There are finer prints to consider. Banks will set a maximum proportion—generally 30.0 percent to 40.0 percent—that the mortgage takes out of gross monthly income. Beyond this threshold, too much of our income is allotted to the mortgage raising concerns about our own well being to finance other needs. Also, prudential central bank rules set a limit that the bank can finance and we must contribute the balance as our equity—another lumpy expanse.

A P75,000 a month gross salary will attract an effective income tax rate of about 28.0 percent. With 40.0 percent set aside for the mortgage, this leaves only 32.0 percent of the salary for utilities, food, clothing, medical expenses and saving.

Such a budget is not impossible, but frankly the margin for any surprise is very thin. A sudden and prolonged illness, other unforeseen needs in the family, a spike in the prices of rice and gasoline can surprise you in both the timing and the amount needed.

And then the babies come. From pregnancy to birth to post-natal care to schooling and eventually to their wedding days, these are all part of the married-life equation that takes you full-circle from your wedding day to paying for theirs.

I am not saying that the cost-benefit ratio makes the economics of marriage untenable. To the contrary, many happily choose this route despite the costs and the not-too-encouraging current trends on prices. This is what makes marriage special: we choose to go into it despite the financial challenges that go with it.

So, weigh your ability to take on the financial responsibilities of married life carefully. Since nothing beats being in a position to match planned actions with the capacity to pay for these actions, think about how you are going to build on your savings, or whether you need to define yourself in a new career direction. If you are or would be paying for Mom and Dad's medical needs, you also need to bring that to the equation.

While cooking for two may cost the same as cooking for one, getting married also creates a lot of expenses. Sure, there may now be two income streams, but ultimately, there is nothing in married life that is (financially) free. So by all means, plan for marriage with eyes wide open, and don't leave the wife-to-be out of the planning.

Have a question for Dr. Noet? Email personal_finance@inquirer.net. Noet Ravalo is a macro-financial economist by practice and profession. He was chief economist of the Bankers Association of the Philippines until 2002 and has since been doing consulting work. Readers are solely responsible for their investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this web site.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Cinema Scope

names Diaz's film one of decade's best

MANILA, Philippines—International film magazine Cinema Scope has picked Lav Diaz's 10-hour epic "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" as among the Top 10 Films of the Decade.

Coincidentally, Diaz also shot "Ebolusyon" for 10 years, from 1994 to 2004.

The other films in the Cinema Scope list are: Jia Zhangke's "Platform" (2000); Pedro Costa's "In Vanda's Room" (2001); Lisandro Alonso's "La libertad" (2001); Thom Andersen's "Los Angeles Plays Itself" (2003); James Benning's "13 Lakes" (2004); Edward Yang's "Yi Yi" (2000); Paul Verhoeven's "Black Book" (2006); Bong Joon-ho's "Memories of Murder" (2003); and David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive" (2001).

The Toronto-based magazine's editor Mark Peranson said the inclusion of "Ebolusyon" on the list was chosen by leading filmmakers, critics and festival programmers.

Diaz is happy and thankful to be included in the lineup. "These are great films… and filmmakers. I love and respect their works—especially Pedro Costa's. The great Taiwanese filmmaker Edward Yang died of cancer three years ago."

Filipino filmmaker Raya Martin wrote an essay on "Ebolusyon" in the same special issue of Cinema Scope. Martin called Diaz the "standard bearer of contemplative cinema," describing his oeuvre as "part history class, part film history, and pure cinema."

Diaz recalled that Martin, "who loved 'Ebolusyon'… used to drop by my old studio in Cubao during the struggle of editing it. He was still in college then and he asked lots of questions. He's a great student of Philippine cinema."

He only hopes that more Filipinos would get to watch his films that are sadly unavailable on DVD.

"I hope to get a grant to tour the film in local universities and far-flung villages next year and conduct discourse with students and barrio folk. We'll try to act on the DVD issue next year. But I heard 'Ebolusyon' is already available online [Torrentz], along with 'Heremias,' 'Death in the Land of Encantos' and 'Melancholia,' with Italian subtitles," he said.

He doesn't feel pressured by this latest recognition. "They are affirmations… but even without these honors, I will still work in the realm of greater aestheticism. Great cinema is great food for the soul."

He is elated that the world is now looking at Philippine cinema with renewed interest.

'Level playing field'

"It's now a level playing field in the festival circuit. The digital age, the Internet…dismantled the previous feudal setup where Hollywood, Hong Kong and European films dominated all venues of cinema."

He is grateful to the "earnest critics and programmers" who pushed for his works. "They know that my films are not mere novelties because of their so-called impossible lengths," he said.

Filipino filmmakers can sustain this global interest, he pointed out, through "better works, greater visions."

In the end, all this international acclaim could do ordinary Filipinos a world of good, he said.

"Filipinos now know that there are great filmmakers, great artists in their midst. We don't have to look far. Beyond commerce, the greater praxis must be focused on a cultural revolution… to help this nation grow. And cinema can be on the forefront." ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Another Pinay in

'Miss Saigon' wows New Zealand

By POCHOLO CONCEPCION
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Ivy Padilla had quit as lead singer of the local rock band Strawberry Fields and was living in New Zealand when she casually walked into an audition for a Wellington production of "Miss Saigon."

She couldn't believe she bagged the lead role of Kim—the same one that Lea Salonga originally played in 1989 and which won for the latter a slew of international awards.

The Wellington production reportedly had a successful 16-night run which ended Saturday. Padilla is still overwhelmed by the experience, and is now eyeing to audition for the film version.

You used to sing in a rock band. How did that help you when you auditioned, got the role, and started playing Kim?

I had been exposed to different singing styles and techniques. The experience of live performances in Manila built my confidence.

How interested were you in musical theater before "Miss Saigon"?

When I first heard that Lea Salonga was playing Kim in the original Broadway production, I bought a copy of the soundtrack— which I listened to constantly at home. At that point, I realized I wanted to do the same thing.

What have you learned from playing Kim?

I learned to project my voice and manipulate it to suit a particular scene without straining my vocal cords.

What are the highlights of your stint?

When people congratulate me after each show, they are shocked to find out how new I am in theater. I wasn't even sure I was doing it right until the end, when my heart melted each time I heard the audience's applause.

Have there been technical glitches or mistakes on your part that the audience did not notice?

There have been instances when I forgot a couple of lines. I had to divert attention to my acting. During opening night, I got leg cramps onstage while singing. In another instance, my foot was run over by the set piece. I also got an upset stomach once, but the show must go on.

Are you playing to full houses?

Yes! We are extremely stoked as the show has been very successful. We've also heard of people who have seen it and then came back with their friends to watch it again.

What happens after the New Zealand run?

Since this was specifically for the Wellington region, the show ran only until yesterday. However, we've been asked if there are any plans for this production to move around New Zealand. That would be great, although there are a lot of things to be taken into consideration for everyone in the cast.

What are your own plans once it's really over?

I'll be auditioning for other productions.

Given the chance, would you like to join the cast of the film version?

Oh, definitely! I first heard about it in Oct. 2009. I've been gathering information on plans for the movie and the opportunity to audition. I will keep praying to be given that chance, just like what happened in "Miss Saigon."

Miriam Quiambao officially single again

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Miriam Quiambao is officially single again. Her divorce from her Italian husband Claudio Rondinelli has been granted.

"I'm relieved that the legalities are over," she says. "Now I can finally put it all behind."

Does she still believe in marriage? "Of course, I still do," she affirms. "I won't stop trying again because I want to have a partner who will help me raise a family."

What's the most important lesson she learned from her marriage which she will put to good use in her next romance? "One must love oneself fully before loving another. Loving others must come from our overflow."

■ ■ ■ ■

I cornered Tita June Keithley for her reaction on the nude photos of the ex-wife of his son, Diego, Raven Villanueva, currently circulating on the Internet.

"I haven't seen them," she says. "It's better to keep quiet. Diego doesn't want to comment, too. On the lighter side, Diego has just done a commercial with his family which will be aired here and all over Asia." One proud Mama is also one mum ex mom-in-law!

■ ■ ■ ■

Joem Bascon and Meryll Soriano were spotted over the weekend in Boracay. Their romance is going strong. John Lloyd Cruz was also seen somewhere in the island. Wonder with whom Lloydie was Boradized and Boradazed!

■ ■ ■ ■

Guess list:

■ A young actress wanted to buy a new pair of boots when she was abroad. But her mother said no because the actress' old pair was still in good condition. All the poor actress could do was window-shop while her Mom shopped till she dropped using her breadwinner daughter's hard-earned money.

■ Organizers of a reality show are appalled with a pseudo-celeb who's pushing himself to be included in the short list of the show's next season "Exaj siya," laments the head of the production team. "He keeps bragging about his so-called accomplishments. Wala pa namang napatunayan [He hasn't proven anything yet]. We told him kasali siya kahit hindi naman [that he's included even when he isn't]."

■ ■ ■ ■

Miriam Quiambao

Dingdong Dantes shrugs off rumors that his girlfriend Marian Rivera already has a child.

"It's the biggest joke of the decade," he exclaims. "Thank you to the great inventors for providing Marian and me with entertainment."

But what's even more entertaining is Dong and Marian's movie, "You To Me Are Everything," where they dabble in romantic-comedy for the first time. It is an endearing love story of Iska (Marian), a cheerful Igorot from the mountains and Raphael (Dong), a son of a wealthy politician.

By some fortuitous turn of events, Iska suddenly inherits millions while Raphael becomes penniless after his father is convicted for corruption.

"For a change, our movie is light and funny," Dong quips. "We all need to get de-stressed during this election period."

How is Marian handling the 'motherhood' rumor? "The truth will always come out," Dong explains. "What matters is what people who love her believe. I can vouch that the talk going around is a complete lie."

What if Marian really has a kid? "There is nothing wrong with having a kid," he says. "It is one of God's supreme gifts as long as it is done in a responsible manner. One thing's for sure, I will be a great father to my kid if and when the time comes." For now, Dong and Marian need no kids because they have each other to baby.

■ ■ ■ ■

During a lull on TV5's Sunday noontime show, "PO5," Ryan Agoncillo told his co-host Apple Chiu in jest, "Mabuti na lang matangkad ka at baka pagkamalan kitang si Juday."

Although they do have a striking resemblance, of course the apple of Ryan's eye can never be Ms Chiu and will forever be his preggy wifey, Juday.

■ ■ ■ ■

When Maxene Magalona found out that JC Tiuseco was the next guest in the same show where she was also invited to grace, she became uneasy. Apparently, she didn't want to cross paths with him in the studio.

Although they never openly admitted anything, it goes without saying that they were more than just friends. That explains the bittersweetness in the air.

Could it be true that prior to JC's win in "Survivor," he was set to marry his non-show biz GF? Then when show biz beckoned, things got complicated between them which affected his budding romance with Maxene.

■ ■ ■ ■

Could it be true that Manny Pacquiao bought a prime property in Tagaytay for his ladylove? "Tinamaan talaga si Pacman," insists my source. Hmmm... seems like his opponent's punches in the ring are no match to Cupid's sting.

■ ■ ■ ■

I was so touched when Gabby Concepcion texted me a few hours before the pilot episode of "Paparazzi" (Sundays 2:30 p.m.), my show on TV5 with Ruffa G. and Tita Cristy, was aired. His message read: "Good luck and congrats on your new show. I'm so lucky you are my friend."

Papa Piolo alive and well

MANILA, Philippines—"Piolo Pascual was at home when the text messages started circulating on Tuesday night," said Star Magic PR head Thess Gubi of the rumor that the matinee idol is now dead.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Gubi said Piolo was busy with work in Subic.

Quite a number of fans turned to the Web for news on Piolo's reported death. One site, Global Associated News, reported that Piolo "fell more than 60 feet to his death on the Kauri Cliffs while on-set." The website cited the New Zealand Police as its source.

"We are unaware of how this nasty rumor started. Kung totoo 'yan, we would all be grieving by now," Gubi told Inquirer Entertainment on Wednesday. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Entrenched

The four-part special report prepared by the Inquirer's Across the Nation section and filed by dozens of provincial correspondents identifies many of the political dynasties who have staked a claim to the 2010 elections. The lead paragraph of the second story in the series gives us the necessary perspective: "In 50 provinces, at least 108 families use elections in the Philippines as a virtual playground to keep themselves in political power."

What that revealing statistic means is that in about two-thirds of the country (speaking merely in terms of administrative units of government; in terms of total population, the proportion of voters affected must be much higher), political power is being contested by (or shared between) barely a hundred families. The contest is limited only to a few choice positions—governor, representative, mayor—but they are choice precisely because they are the real sources of power in local government.

The phenomenon of political dynasties has been with us for so long as to seem no longer out of the ordinary, but natural. In a polity with weak political institutions, dynasties often serve as political parties in all but name. To be sure, some dynasties are based on a real family tradition of public service; in the same way that a family of doctors encourages more doctors in the family, a family of politicians can also encourage other family members to think of politics as a family tradition.

But by and large, political dynasties are the means by which the ruling elites, already established in local business and sometimes in local culture as well, maintain a firm hold on political power. That this cozy state of affairs cannot be good for the democratic project is recognized in the Constitution itself; Article II, Sec. 26 bans all dynasties: "The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and prohibit political dynasties..."

How can political dynasties undermine democracy itself? Let us count (some of) the ways.

Dynastic politics can monopolize the very "access to opportunities for public service" that the Constitution seeks to promote. In Bataan, for example, Gov. Enrique Garcia Jr. is seeking to add to the Garcias' impressive collection of vital positions by fielding daughter Gila as representative in the first legislative district. His sons are already serving as second district representative and capital city mayor. No matter how much credit the Garcias get, especially for turning Balanga City into a thriving regional hub, the prospect of all Top 4 positions being monopolized by their family cannot be good news for democracy.

Dynastic politics can breed rank opportunism among its members and beneficiaries. For instance, Sen. Bong Revilla sponsored a law that created four new legislative districts in his home province of Cavite. In one of those newly created districts, however, his wife Lani is running for representative. In the same way that both the law and political tradition ban legislators from legislating a salary increase for themselves, legislators should be banned from directly and immediately benefiting from such district-creating laws. The principle is the same: Legislators should not enjoy undue advantage from the laws only they are mandated to enact.

Dynastic politics can rob voters of one of the crucial aspects of the entire electoral process: the gift of choice. In too many instances, entrenched dynasties have manipulated the situation, or maneuvered themselves into a position, where they can field candidates unopposed. In Dinagat, Surigao del Norte, for example, at least three members of the Ecleo family are running for separate offices without opposition. This makes the May 10 vote not a true contest, but a mere coronation.

It is possible to slay the dragon of dynastic politics. Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca, for instance, has done just that, in two remarkable election victories. But the fact that she is running for a third term against yet another member of the powerful Dy clan means that the dragon may actually be a wily cat, gifted, unfortunately, with the proverbial nine lives.

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Anak Pawis in Intermediate English

Manang Fe Calixterio, erstwhile of NMC's adult education program, teaches Filipino contract workers English through the Philippine Consulate General. She got me to join her in a session previously. The last few weeks, I did a separate series of five three-hour weekly sessions to teach learners how to teach themselves. Dubbed "an encounter with a teacher towards an independent self-directed program," we got the dozen participants to zero in on their patterns of vocabulary acquisition and reading awareness disciplines.

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jaime Vergara, a regular contributor to the Opinion page, is a proud dual citizen of the Philippines and the United States.

Graduates of the program will hold their closing ceremony tomorrow, and solemn rites and rituals will add to Filipinos' penchant for pomp and circumstance.

A major emphasis in our class was how each of the students told their self-story in words through the mental management of their life's timeline (memories of events, people and places), the organization of their living space (with emphasis on the awareness of the five senses), the definition of roles played, and the narrative articulation of their life's identity and vocation. Sorting out words (nouns, verbs and adjectives) used with the five senses against a delineation of objective data, reflective experience, interpretive analysis, and decisional import, was the big challenge foisted on the participants.

One of the methods shared for word familiarity was the use of existing music as a way of articulating one's life stance. Some Filipinos already assert fierce independence and defiant individualism in Paul Anka's *My Way,* the reverence of which has reached the height of idolatry when people get killed for bungling the favored tune and lyrics.

In older times, such cute and sentimental songs like *Bahay Kubo* and *Ako'y Pobreng Alindahaw* portrayed a long-suffering *Pinoy,* congruent to the religious virtues of the suffering Christ, which was even echoed in the telling of Jose Rizal's martyrdom, now enshrined by the *Rizalistas.* The songs we sing reflect our images of what we value, and that in turn determines our behavior, which again reinforces the values the images carry. No decent Filipino movie is made that does not involve, at least, a good cry.

Our choices of songs that we shared include *The Chariot of Fire* movie's theme to which we wrote new lyrics. The music itself was previously used as the entrance cadence to the 6th Grade transitioning class at SVES in their Farewell and Recognition ceremony. With minor alteration, we also lifted the Carpenter's *Top of the World,* and Whitney Houston's *One Moment in Time.* I used both the original lyrics and additional words of *And I Love You So* to demonstrate how one might appropriate a popular tune for one's purposes.

I was toying with Freddie Aguilar's *Anak* in our last session. As requested, here's the work in progress for tomorrow's Pinoy contract workers graduation. *Mabuhay!*

Anak Ng Pinoy

Once upon a time, not so long ago,
To this island world, we came two by two,
The venture then was lush, flushed with cash.

There wuz plenty work to go around,
At lazy fairs, no one was found;
We clerk'd and nurse'd
Work habits all were sound.

Then fact'ry lords and a motley crew
Stashed their cash, they flew
Like bats on brew;
D'Guvner knew, reelection drew,
Supporters few,
To win, he had no clue!

Employment-wise, ebbed the tide,
Garments-wide, d'sunset's bride,
Salary cuts, they did ouch-ed our pride.

And we all knew the time had come
Our 'welcome' gone, Labor said, we're done.
Pasiando, neh, was all that's left,
It served us well, Belat ang imo, beh!

But wait, we said, we did not come
To laze and tour, be waited on,
We're immigrants, you see,
We intend to be.

We are not rubbers, good for use,
Just for once, to be abused,
Were busy bees, Pinoys, of land and sea.

So now, we're back where we begun,
Our love of life cannot be undone;
Babalatung man, we still have fun
Ang ina-api, ating ipaglaban.

In this island world, not so long ago,
We lost our jobs, do we boo hoo hoo.
No way! We venture on!
We keep moving on…and on…and on…

'Heroes, warts and all'

Twitter I have yet to explore. Facebook consumes me. I got hooked when a niece sent me a link to an Ambeth Ocampo Fan Page. I was horrified by the awful pictures posted there, all downloaded from the Internet. I don't know how to change the unflattering photo in my Wikipedia entry! Someone had set up a Facebook Fan Page for me but wasn't updating it, so the wall was brewing with complaints that I was ignoring their comments. There was little I could do because I was not the page administrator, so I left a note and got an invite to befriend the person who set up the Fan Page. She said that after I accept her invite she would turn over administration of the Fan Page to me and delete her account. This is all very mysterious, but that is how I took over a Fan Page with a few hundred members now growing fast. At last count we are close to 5,000 fans. Thus, aside from this bi-weekly column I now post pictures and comments on the Fan Page to keep things going.

I have given up on my blog ("The Filipino Historian") because Facebook is more interactive. My challenge is to compose engaging picture captions modeled after the witty ones on pages of The Economist. Pictures of heroes are of particular interest to students and the Internet has a lot of raw iconographic material but little or no captions or explanations that tell you when the photograph was taken and why. Context has to be provided and this led me to my new project of annotating historical photographs of the Philippines with all the obscure and useless information that I have picked up over the last 30 years of research, travel and observation. For example, there seems to be only one faded photograph of Graciano Lopez Jaena the propagandist, orator and editor of *La Solidaridad*. We now know what he looked like and what he wore, but you have to wade through his speeches and writings to get a sense of his personality. If you are lucky, there will be a stray reference, a description of him somewhere, like that in the 1949 translation of Jose Alejandrino's, "The Price of Freedom," that reads: "In his dress he was slovenly and was so careless that I saw him eat sardines in oil with his fingers which he cleaned afterwards with his already dirty suit."

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Alejandrino narrated how Mariano Ponce bought Graciano a new suit but he insisted on keeping his filthy old one. Graciano later pawned the new one and returned to his old suit! Another time he was brought to a tailor and they "recommended to the tailor to put rubber strips in the cuffs of his pants so that these would not rip off despite the fact that Graciano never cared even to put on his pants well and always carried them dragging down. His physical qualities were unfavorable to him as an orator. He was of a medium stature with a frail constitution, stuttered somewhat, and had a very pronounced Visayan accent.

"He hardly had any instruction because he never took the trouble of studying, so much so that Rizal on a certain occasion told him: 'It is really a pity that you don't study and cultivate your great talent in order to better serve our country.'

"Graciano then let loose that historical phrase first to stir up the enthusiasm of the enemies of tyranny: 'on the shoulders of slaves should not rest a doctor's cape.'

"Rizal replied: 'You can invoke that grandiloquent phrase to justify your laziness, but I tell you in turn that the shoulders do not honor the doctor's cape, but the doctor's cape honors the shoulders!'"

Having missed Greek and Latin in the Ateneo, I don't get Rizal's joke. I'm posting a picture of Gen. Miguel Malvar that was enhanced by this description provided by Americas pursuing him:

"Complexion rather dark, weighs about 145 pounds, about 5 feet 2 inches in height, short and heavy set, with unusually thick and heavy jawbones, hair black, with perhaps a few gray hairs, about 40 or 42 years old, wears a gold ring with a stone set on the third finger of the left hand, feet a little broad, wears a 5 or 6 shoe (when wearing shoes), has well-shaped hands. His hair is liable to grow long in front of his ears, giving an appearance of small side whiskers. He usually wears a small black mustache, and while conversing with anyone is liable to bat his eyes in a peculiar way.

"Goes about country with an Indian shirt and trousers cut off or rolled up to the knee (to avoid detection). If captured, will affect being very simple, inoffensive, and ignorant native who knows nothing, and will give a wrong name. Mouth large, nose ordinary, but slightly resembling Philippine nose, eyes black. Sometimes chews betel nut. He passed American troops with a rooster under his arms, and has ridden on a carabao through Santo Tomas and Lipa, stopping at Lipa to talk to the presidente, without being detected. When the troops are hunting him, he never sleeps twice in the same place, and sometimes changes his place during the night."

Pictures and well-researched captions are worth more than the proverbial thousand words.

Comments are welcome at my Facebook Fan Page.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ISLANDWIDE CLEANUP

Saipan Laulau Development Inc. dba Laolao Bay Golf & Resort is helping the Kagman community by joining the island-wide cleanup. The staff of Laolao Bay Golf & Resort was out April 23, 2010, picking up trash along road sides from Kagman Mobil Gas Station to Santa Soledad church. LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort also joined International Coastal Cleanup last August by in cleaning the coastal area of Laolao beach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YOUNG DANCER

Pacific Flower Dance Group's Taylor Jean Sablan performs with the dance troupe during the 29th Flame Tree Arts Festival weekend.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHAMORRO CONFERENCE

The 1st Kumfirensian Lingguahin Chamorro was held this week at the Round House in Songsong Village Rota, right next to the Chamorro Village. Participants came from various Chamorro organizations in Guam, Saipan, and Tinian, including teachers and students. Keynote speakers were Dr. Sandy Cheung from the University of Santa Cruz and principal investigator for the Chamorro-English Dictionary Revision Project; Carmen S.Taimanao, Chamorro language and culture expert; Joseph S. Inos, former mayor of Rota and a recognized speaker of the language; and John Del Rosario, former DPL secretary, Chamorro writer and columnist. In photo, from left, are Vio Guerrero, Rosalina Magofna, Dr. Sandy Chung, Cameron Fruit, and Herbert S. Del Rosario.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

BIRTHDAY GET-TOGETHER

Former House Floor Leader Joseph James Norita Camacho entertains Gov. Benigno Fitial, CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi, and Marianne Tudela who were among his many guests during his birthday celebration/fundraiser at Naked Fish on Tuesday night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday greetings going out to Jonathan Pangelinan Cabrera, who is celebrating his birthday today, Saturday, May 1st. May you have a fabulous one. Much love coming from all your family and friends—most especially your Glitterati crew, and of course all your SSHS Students and Manta Ray family.

Happy Birthday to Samantha Tengco. Greetings from your Mom and Dad, little brother and the Jhems Family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Members of the 2010 CNMI Mock Trial event winners for Mount Carmel School pose in front of the bench with the CNMI's Justices and judges. This group of the CNMI's young people is on their way to Philadelphia to complete in the Nationals Mock Trial Championships. Attorney General Edward Buckingham, a coach for the team, is pictured on the left. The members of the winning team from Mount Carmel School (not in order) are Geza Baka III, Maria Balajadia, Kevin Bautista, Hazel Doctor Ryan Ortizo, Keno San Pablo, Janela Revilla and Anastasia Schweiger, with adviser Lordes Mendiola.

YoungStyle

This photo provided by Tullar Elementary School in Neenah, Wis., shows Luke Kelley, 10, Eleanor Erbach, 11, and Raven Wallene, 11, posing Thursday, April 29, 2010 after the fifth-graders won a statewide stock-trading competition by turning $100,000 of pretend money into more than $160,000 in 10 weeks.
AP

Show me the money: Wis. kids pick stock winners

By DINESH RAMDE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

If your stockbroker isn't getting you a 60 percent return on your investments, maybe you could turn your portfolio over to some Wisconsin fifth-graders.

Three students at Tullar Elementary School in Neenah won a statewide stock-investment challenge this week by turning $100,000 in pretend money into $160,218 in 10 weeks.

Eleanor Erbach and Raven Wallene, both 11, and Luke Kelley, 10, beat nearly 1,400 other Wisconsin teams, most of which were comprised of high school students.

ON THE NET:

EconomicsWisconsin: http://www.economicswisconsin.org/

"It was really exciting," Kelley said. "I was really surprised at the beginning when we started in first place, and then when we stayed in first place I wasn't really surprised when we won."

Their teacher, Tim Hopfensperger, seems to have the Midas touch. It's the third time since 2007 that he led a fifth-grade team to the state title.

He starts by listing 50 to 60 companies on the chalkboard that he feels have potential. Kids mainly choose from those stocks, although they're free to invest in others.

Erbach, Kelley and Wallene said they looked at historical performance and pored over quarterly reports. They narrowed their list to eight or nine and held most for the entire 10-week period.

They made their biggest money on two lesser-known stocks, earning about $13,800 on heart monitor maker Cardionet Inc. and roughly $11,630 on plastics maker Westlake Chemical Corp.

"Some people just picked stocks and didn't really look them up," Wallene said. "We were looking at how much they made, stock price, earnings."

The contest ran from Feb. 16 through April 23. In that period, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 9.1 percent and the Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 11 percent. Contest sponsor EconomicsWisconsin, a nonprofit designed to teach students about stock trading, declared the winners on Wednesday.

They get a two-day trip to New York, where they will tour the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, visit popular landmarks and see "The Lion King."

Hopfensperger's teams have been so successful that other teachers have asked for explanations for how their high school economics classes lost to fifth-graders, said Melissa Guzman, the EconomicsWisconsin program coordinator.

"All I can say is he just knows what he's doing. He enjoys teaching," she said.

Hopfensperger is also a savvy investor himself. He said he has more than doubled his real-world investments in the past 18 months because he bought a number of blue-chip stocks when prices were low in 2008. But he always turns down people who ask him to invest their savings.

"I tell them it's a lot easier to invest money that's not real money than real hard-earned cash," he said. "I don't think I want to take a chance with other people's money."

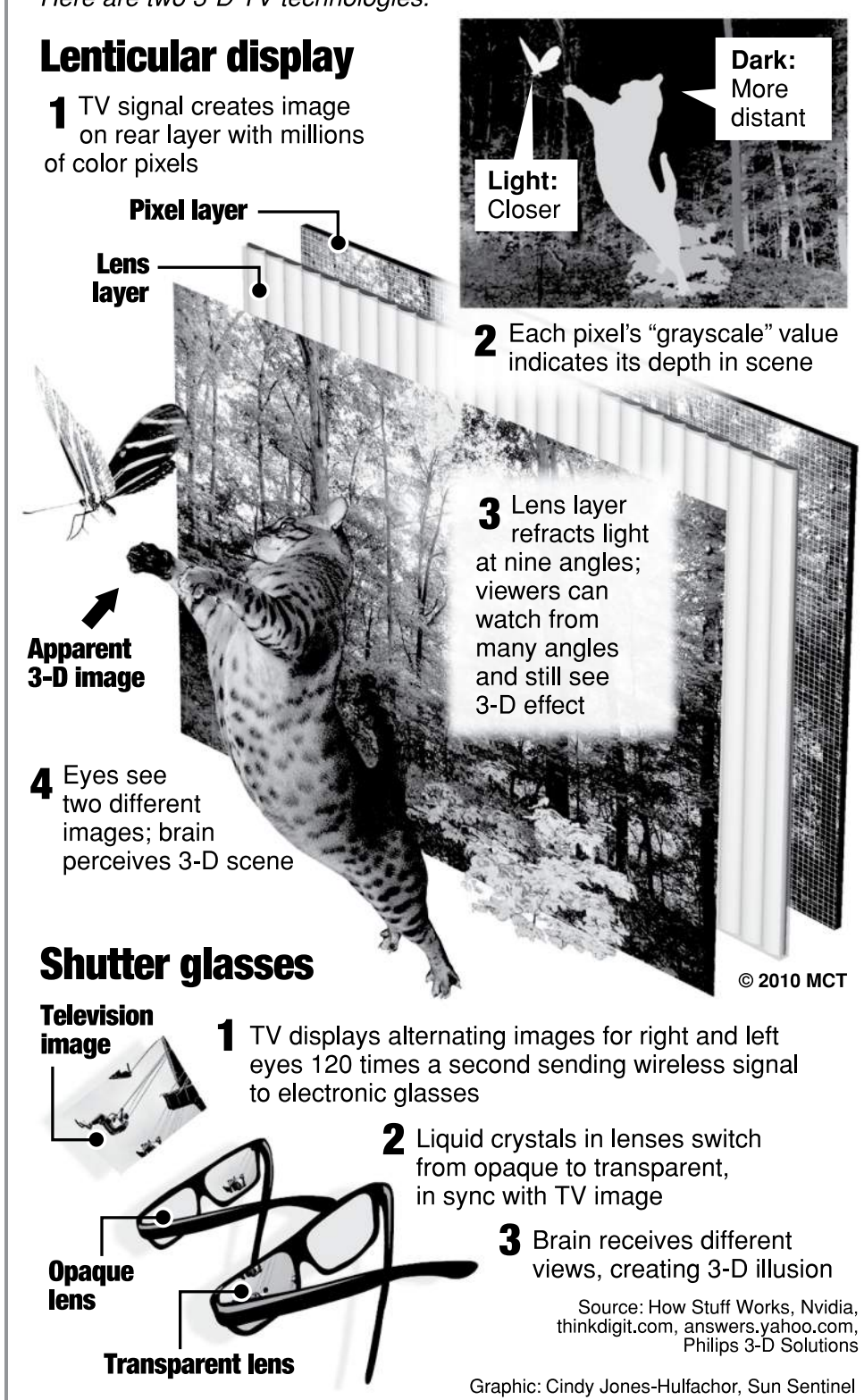
At least one of the young winners, though, isn't shy about offering tips.

"Don't put all your money on one stock," Wallene said she will tell her parents. "Look into the whole portfolio and see how it's done over the years. Make sure you look everything up."

Science Matters

3-D illusion on a TV screen

Three-dimensional television is coming soon to the consumer market. Here are two 3-D TV technologies.

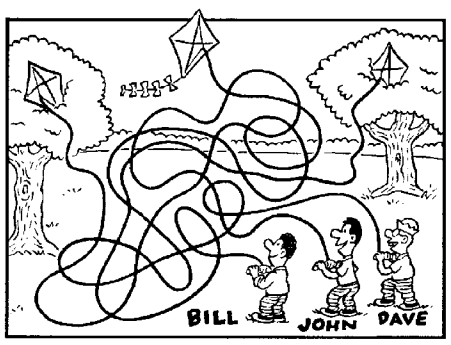


Source: How Stuff Works, Nvidia, thinkdigit.com, answers.yahoo.com, Philips 3-D Solutions

Graphic: Cindy Jones-Hulfachor, Sun Sentinel

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



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TWO DOWN, ONE TO GO! See if you can guess which one of these lads' kites is still flying high!

Answer: Dave is the lucky flyer.

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Illustrated by David Coulson

1.	M							O
2.		M					O	
3.			M			O		
4.				M	O			
5.				O	M			
6.			O			M		
7.		O					M	
8.	O							M

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITION:	ANAGRAM:
1. A summer pest.	quit + moos
2. He assumes a false name.	poor + mist
3. Game using small blocks.	moon + side
4. To spitefully criticize.	moth + daub
5. Pale horse with white mane.	loom + pain
6. He'll get you if you're bad.	gamy + boon
7. A clear, thin soup.	moms + cone
8. Tendency to expect good.	tipi + moms

Answers: 1. Mosquito. 2. Impostor. 3. Dominoes. 4. Badmouth. 5. Palomino. 6. Boogyman. 7. Consomme. 8. Optimism

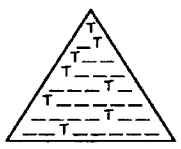
A HEAD SCRATCHER! See if you can arrange the eight numbers below into two groups of four numbers each in such a way that each set of numbers will add up to the same total.

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

Our answer: (173 + 4 = 177) and 85 + 92 = 177).

THE "T" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the T's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Type of shirt.
2. On, or near.
3. Informal for sailor.
4. Once ruled Russia.
5. A board game.
6. Found on stairs.
7. Way to serve nuts.
8. Came from outer space.



Answers: The words are: T, at, tar, tsar, darts, treads, roasted, asteroid.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Pulitzer Prize-winning American author John Steinbeck, best known for "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Of Mice and Men," who made the following sage observation: "The writer must believe that what he is doing is the most important thing in the world. And he must hold to this illusion even when he knows it is not true."

■ If you're planning a summer trip to Maine, you won't want to miss the stunning tourist attraction to be found on Peaks Island. There you'll find an entire museum devoted to housing a rather extensive collection of umbrella covers.

■ In the United States, January is the least popular month for weddings.

■ If you've never heard of the quagga, don't blame yourself. The creature, once found on the plains of Africa, has been extinct since 1883. An odd-looking creature, this subspecies of zebra was once thought to be half-zebra, half horse. Though the front part of its body had the zebra's stripes, those stripes faded out mid-body and the rest of the equine looked remarkably like a common horse.

■ It's been claimed that 19th-century English naturalist Charles Darwin devoted eight years to studying the lowly barnacle.

■ We all know that the day after Thanksgiving is commonly known as Black Friday, thanks to all the crowds seeking out deals on Christmas gifts, but have you ever wondered how it got that name? It seems that the moniker originated back in 1965 when the Philadelphia police department came up with the name after having to deal with the traffic jams and shopping crowds.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Everybody believes in something and everybody, by virtue of the fact that they believe in something, use that something to support their own existence."—Frank Zappa

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MAGIC MAZE ● SHIP TYPES

M K I F D A X V T Q O M J H F
C A Y P D R A K K A R T R W U
R P N L I C E B R E A K E R J
H F D B Z H T E N O X V I E T
R Q O M K A S O B F E R R Y I
H F D B O I O E T T E V R O C
Z Y W B U H R V L P H T A R R
Q O N R C I N L P T K C C T J
I U C S F F R I G A T E T S U
G H F N O E L L A G D A C E N
A Z X W V C U S R Q O N B D K

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Battleship	Destroyer	Frigate	Junk
Clipper	Drakkar	Galleon	Ketch
Corvette	Ferry	Gunboat	Schooner
Cruiser	Fireboat	Icebreaker	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	−		x		10
x		x		x	
	−		x		24
−		+		−	
	+		x		11
20		10		39	

1 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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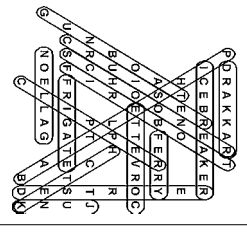
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

3	−	1	x	5	10
x		x		x	
9	−	6	x	8	24
−		+		−	
7	+	4	x	1	11
20		10		39	

Dog life vests, safety belts

Several years ago, a frightening incident inspired automotive safety specialist Christina Selter to found BarkBuckleUP, a program that promotes pet safety.

"We had a near-accident with our dogs in the car. (We were) only traveling about 2 mph from a stop sign, when a car ran a red light and our little Betty fell off the seat. (She) wasn't hurt, but didn't want to be on the seat or in the car. It took some time to get her confident again."

Selter, who has an SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) certification, created BarkBuckleUP to remind owners to restrain their pets properly in the car, using safety belts specially designed for pets. She travels the U.S. throughout the year, promoting the message and working with police and fire departments to support the safety program.

BarkBuckleUP also focuses on other safety issues, and Selter wants pet owners to stay aware. May is National Water Safety Month, and she reminds owners to keep a close eye on their pets while playing near or in the water.

While explaining that most dogs love water, she warns, "Dogs get tired just like us. They need to take breaks."

Dogs also should wear a pet life vest when on the water with owners—in a boat or other watercraft, for example.

To keep dogs healthy, wash them off after they've finished their swim. "A few years ago in California at a pet event, there was a huge breakout of hot spots (on dogs) after going into the ocean," Selter says. "Clean their fur thoroughly and their feet. Clean them off every time."

The BarkBuckleUP website (www.BarkBuckleUP.com) features safety products for pets, including restraints for dogs and for pet carriers, life vests, first-aid kits, and more.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet resources at www.PawsCorner.com.

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Last-minute Mother's Day gifts from the toolbox

Wondering what last-minute gift school-age kids can give Mom for Mother's Day? The answer is in the box—the toolbox! Dad, a neighbor or a friend can join in to help the kids make a simple, heartfelt locket or hip-looking necklace that Mom will enjoy wearing wherever she goes. The best part is that it's easy on the kids' budget, and it only takes a few minutes to create "designer" jewelry from the toolbox for her jewel box.

To get started, simply choose some small photos of the kids, Dad or special people and pets in Mom's life. Look for the rest of your supplies in a toolbox and in your family's craft and junk jewelry boxes. If you need a particular item you don't have, visit your neighborhood hardware store.

Here's how to make a locket:

Step 1: Dig around in the toolbox for a standard 1-1/2 or 2-inch cabinet hinge. Set it in front of you closed, so it resembles a small book with the binding along the top. Cover the front and backside of the hinge with paint or colored adhesive-backed paper, or glue on wallpaper or fabric remnants cut to size. Decorate the front with glued-on beads, rhinestones or mini buttons, if you wish. Let dry.

Step 2: Thread a 5-inch length of thin wire in and out of the tiny openings where the two halves meet to form a small loop on the outside of the hinge, then make a full twist to create a smaller loop so that a necklace chain (fan chains from the toolbox work great, too) or thin satin ribbon can fit through it.

If the hinge doesn't stay shut, glue a thin, 1/4-inch magnet strip to the inside to keep the hinge closed when Mom wears it. Now you are ready to arrange and glue on a trimmed-to-fit picture or

two. Keep the hinge open to allow the glue to dry.

If you wish to make it a brooch instead of a locket on a chain, glue a jewelry clasp to the backside.

Step 3: Wrap it up and add a homemade card that might say: "Mom, no matter what, you never come unhinged!"

Extra idea: Choose additional non-sharp items from the toolbox with holes in the center, such as nuts and washers. Thread and twist a length of wire or thin cording through and around the items to form a trendy-looking necklace. Add beads here and there for color and design. For a bracelet, thread the items onto elastic instead of wire.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

O'Brien: I wouldn't have done what Jay Leno did

NEW YORK (AP)—In his first post-"Tonight" show interview, Conan O'Brien said that if he had been in Jay Leno's shoes, he would not have taken back the show less than a year after publicly handing it off to someone else.

"That's me, you know," O'Brien told Steve Kroft of "60 Minutes" in an interview to be broadcast Sunday, excerpts of which were released Thursday by CBS. "Everyone's got their own way ... of doing things."

O'Brien, in the midst of a sold-out concert tour, said he decided to leave NBC because "this relationship is going to be toxic and maybe we just need to go our separate ways."

It was the comic's first interview about the late-night television drama that played out this winter.

He has since been hired by TBS, where he will launch a talk show in November.

In a transition laid out five years earlier, Leno left "Tonight" last year and O'Brien took over. NBC worried about losing Leno to a competitor so the network gave him a prime-time show five nights a week.

That failed on two fronts: affiliates objected to Leno's low ratings and threatened to pull the show, and O'Brien's poor "Tonight" show ratings enabled CBS' David Letterman to surge ahead to first place.

AP

In this image taken from video and released by CBS, former "Tonight Show" host Conan O'Brien, right, talks with "60 Minutes" correspondent Steve Kroft, at O'Brien's Los Angeles home, Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

NBC tried to please both comics by offering Leno a half-hour show at 11:35 p.m. and letting O'Brien keep the "Tonight" show name and begin a half hour later. O'Brien said no and Leno, who never wanted to leave "Tonight" in the first place, slipped back into his old home.

"I wouldn't have done that," O'Brien said.

Asked by Kroft what he would have done, O'Brien said, "Done something else, go someplace else. I mean, that's just me."

O'Brien said he didn't see the point in giving everything to a relationship with NBC that seemed to have no future.

"I'm not sure these people even really want me here," he said.

During the few weeks between his public decision and actual exit, O'Brien became something of a folk hero. An Internet "Team Coco" tribe rose up to support him, and O'Brien's ratings soared for shows with pointed jabs about his bosses.

NBC and a Leno spokesman had no comment about O'Brien's statements.

His buyout by NBC forbade O'Brien from giving interviews that could be printed or telecast before May 1; the "60 Minutes" telecast will be May 2.

CBS' release of the interview excerpts may be a technical violation of that deal, but "I don't think we're going to do anything about it at this point," said Marc Graboff, chairman of NBC Entertainment and Universal Media Studios.

Hunter says she didn't wreck John Edwards' home, family

CHICAGO (AP)—John Edwards' mistress said on Thursday's episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that she doesn't believe she destroyed the former presidential candidate's marriage.

"It is not my experience that a third party wrecks a home," Rielle Hunter told Winfrey. "I believe the problems exist before a third party comes into the picture."

"So you don't think you wrecked his home?" Winfrey asked Hunter.

"I do not believe I wrecked his home," Hunter said.

Hunter's appearance on Winfrey's show is her first televised interview since the former North Carolina senator first admitted two years ago that he had an affair with her. In January, Edwards said he and Hunter have a 2-year-old daughter after initially denying it. He and his wife, Elizabeth Edwards, are now separated.

Hunter told Winfrey she believes people see her negatively because of the affair.

"A lot of people bought into the myth of the marriage, the Edwards' marriage, as being a storybook story and it was so perfect and so wonderful and I destroyed it," Hunter said. "It fits into the two-dimensional story line."

Hunter told Winfrey she met Edwards at a hotel and she "just turned to him and said 'you're so hot' and he practically jumped in my arms." She said the two had four-hour long phone conversations and she fell in love with him.

She also said Edwards was in "extreme conflict" about running for president.

"He didn't know if it was the right thing to do because he had personal problems," Hunter said.

She said Elizabeth Edwards found out about the affair by finding a cell phone that Hunter had purchased for Edwards. Hunter said Elizabeth Edwards made a call on the phone.

"I answered the phone, said 'Hey baby,' and she hung up on me," Hunter said.

Hunter said John Edwards was "very gracious" when he found out she was pregnant, but that it happened at the wrong time. She said the couple didn't use birth control.

"He was married to someone else," Hunter said. "He's in the middle of running for the presidency. It's not great timing."

Hunter said it wasn't until after John Edwards gave an interview to ABC News in August 2008 that he "came clean with" Elizabeth Edwards that he was the father of Hunter's baby. John Edwards admitted the affair in the interview, but denied the baby was his.

Film investors: Paris Hilton owes $1M restitution

MIAMI (AP)—Paris Hilton should return up to $1 million she was paid for the 2006 box-office bomb "Pledge This!" because she didn't plug the film enough, an attorney for the movie's investors told a federal judge Thursday.

The 29-year-old hotel heiress, actress and self-promoting businesswoman refused nine requests for print and broadcast interviews she should have given under her contract, said investor attorney Bryan West.

"We paid her $1 million, and we're entitled to get at least a portion of that back," West told U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno. "Part of what actors do is promote their films."

AP

This July 10, 2009, file photo shows Paris Hilton arriving at federal court in Miami.

But Hilton's attorney, Michael Weinsten, said she took part in several high-profile publicity events—including an appearance at the Cannes Film Festival—and that the contract didn't require her to do interviews when she was busy on other projects.

Weinsten added that Hilton also had the right to approve or reject any proposals or offers.

"Paris Hilton is a brand. That is her value, and how she makes money," he said. "She did substantial publicity."

Hilton, who testified last summer at a trial over the dispute, did not attend Thursday's hearing. She said previously that although dissatisfied with the finished "Pledge This!" cut, she wanted the college sorority romp to succeed and worked hard to make that happen. Yet the film only made $2.9 million.

Moreno previously rejected the investors' effort to sue Hilton for $8.3 million in damages, which included the $1 million she was paid for her acting and as executive producer. But he left open the possibility that she might have to repay some or all of that fee as restitution if she did not fulfill her publicity obligations.

Moreno did not indicate when he would rule. The case centers on determining the value of the appearances Hilton did against the cost of those she rejected, which ranged from a proposed appearance on NBC's "Tonight Show" to phone chats with several British publications.

"The question is, what is the value of what she did do? Because she did do something," Moreno said. "How do I quantify it?"

Hilton was sued by attorney Michael Goldberg, a court-appointed receiver for a now-defunct entertainment company that was the major investor in "Pledge This!" The company, Worldwide Entertainment Group, was shut down as a suspected $300-million Ponzi scheme by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Goldberg is attempting to recoup losses for some 3,300 investors in the company.

Both sides acknowledge Hilton's ability to move a product. Goldberg said Thursday that sales of the "Pledge This!" DVD spiked last summer amid publicity surrounding the trial, although he did not provide exact sales numbers.

Shakira visits Phoenix over tough immigration law

PHOENIX (AP)—Colombian singer Shakira visited Phoenix on Thursday, meeting with the city's police chief and mayor over concerns that a sweeping new state law cracking down on illegal immigration will lead to racial profiling.

The Grammy winner said she wanted to learn more about how the law will be implemented if it goes into effect this summer and to meet with Phoenix's Latino community.

Shakira

"I heard about it on the news and I thought, 'Wow,'" Shakira told The Associated Press after meeting with city officials. "It is unjust and it's inhuman, and it violates the civil and human rights of the Latino community ... It goes against all human dignity, against the principles of most Americans I know."

The law, signed Friday by Republican Gov. Jan Brewer, is viewed as the toughest on illegal immigration in the nation and has drawn criticism from President Barack Obama, who questioned its legality. The law makes it a state crime to be in the U.S. illegally and directs police to question people about their immigration status if there is reason to suspect they're illegal immigrants.

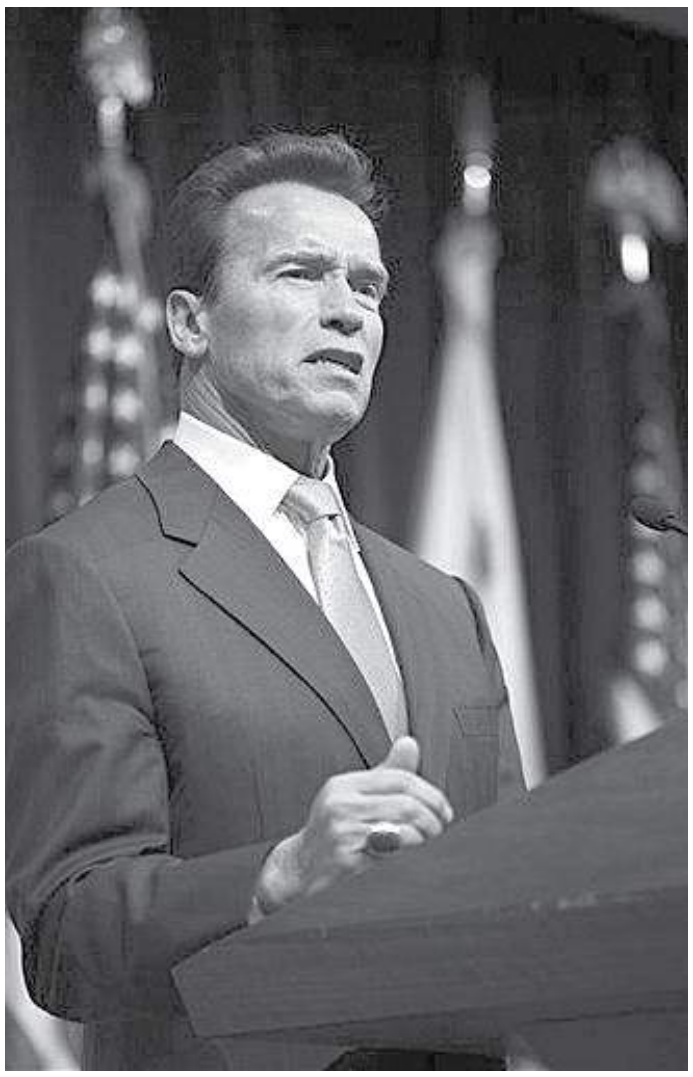
"I'm not an expert on the Constitution but I know the Constitution exists for a reason," Shakira told reporters after meeting with city officials. "It exists to protect human beings, to protect the rights of people living in a nation with or without documents. We're talking about human beings here."

Shakira also made a stop at the state Capitol in downtown Phoenix, telling a group of a few hundred community members that if the law were in effect, she could be arrested since she didn't bring her driver's license to Arizona.

"I'm here pretty much undocumented," she told the crowd, who screamed her name and took photos of her with cameras and cell phones.

She called on the U.S. Congress to work on immigration reform. "No person should be detained because of the color of their skin," she said.

Schwarzenegger for president? He would if he could



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger pledges California's full support for national health care reform during a news conference at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, Calif., on Thursday, April 29, 2010.

AP

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would love to run for president—if he could.

California's actor-turned-governor was born in Austria and the U.S. Constitution prevents foreign-born citizens from holding the nation's top job.

Jay Leno asked Schwarzenegger on "The Tonight Show" Thursday if he would make a White House run if the law was changed.

Schwarzenegger replied, "Without any doubt."

But that's not likely in the foreseeable future. Any amendment to the Constitution must be approved by two-thirds majorities in the House and Senate, and then be ratified by three-fourths of state legislatures.

Schwarzenegger spokesman Aaron McLear says the governor doesn't think that will happen.

Diane Lane 'riveted' by spectacle of Ky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)—Diane Lane is awed by the spectacle surrounding the Kentucky Derby, an event she's attending for the first time.

"I'm just riveted," the actress said Thursday. "I can't wait. Bring on the rain. I don't care."

Saturday's forecast for the 136th edition of America's most famous race calls for heavy rain, which could turn the sartorial splendor of some fans into a soggy mess.

"I've yet to get a hat," Lane said, referring to the essential fashion accessory for Derby day. "I'm working on it and it's great fun."

She hesitated when asked the most popular question of Derby week: who's your horse?

"I'm not a betting person," Lane said. "The last time I bet on a horse I bet the number five because that was my age."

The 45-year-old former Oscar nominee plays horse owner Penny Chenery in the movie "Secretariat," due out Oct. 8 and co-starring John Malkovich. Some of the filming was done at Churchill Downs racetrack.

The movie about the 1973 Triple Crown winner follows the story of how Chenery took over her ailing father's racing stable despite her limited knowledge of the sport. Against the odds, she succeeded in the male-dominated sport as Secretariat swept the Derby, Preakness and Belmont stakes.

Cameron helping build 3-D camera for Mars rover

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—"Avatar" director James Cameron is helping to build a high-resolution 3-D camera on the next-generation Mars rover.

The camera will be mounted atop Curiosity, the next rover mission to Mars set for launch next year.

Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory scaled back its plans in 2007 to mount a 3-D camera atop Curiosity because the upcoming flagship mission to Mars was consistently over budget and behind schedule.

Cameron

But Cameron lobbied NASA administrator Charles Bolden for inclusion of the 3-D camera during a January meeting, saying a rover with a better set of eyes will help the public connect with the mission.

Bolden was convinced. San Diego-based Malin Space Science Systems is now building the 3-D mast camera with Cameron listed as co-investigator.

Ricky Martin criticizes Arizona's immigration law

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Singer Ricky Martin is joining in the criticism of Arizona's new law that will allow police to stop anyone they think might be an illegal immigrant.

Appearing at the Billboard Latin Music Awards ceremony, Martin said Thursday night that the law "makes no sense" and he urged an end to discrimination, hate and racism.

"Long live love, long live peace," he told the audience at the award show in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Martin received a standing ovation when he walked on stage, making one of his first public appearances since announcing that he is gay.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Actress' brother-in-law charged with killing wife

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The brother-in-law of actress Aasha Davis has been arrested and charged with murdering his wife, who has been missing for more than a year. Lyle Herring Sr. is scheduled to be arraigned Friday in Los Angeles. He was arrested Wednesday at California State University, Northridge, where he works as a recruiter. Authorities say Herring's wife, Lesley Herring, disappeared in February 2009 and has not been found. She was reported missing by her sister, Aasha Davis, after she failed to show up at work for several days. Davis has appeared on TV's "Grey's Anatomy" and "Friday Night Lights." Lyle Herring denied last year that he was involved in his wife's disappearance. He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Folk music singer Susan Reed dies at 84

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Susan Reed, the cabaret singer whom Life magazine saluted in a l955 cover story as the leading lady of the folk music era, has died. She was 84. The singer, who regularly performed at Carnegie Hall in New York and the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles, died Sunday of natural causes at her nursing home in Greenport, N.Y., publicist Dale Olson said. Reed also acted alongside Gene Krupa in "Glamour Girl," and in numerous TV shows including 1952's "The Firestone Hour." She starred on Broadway in the Max Liebman production of "Billy the Kid," and co-starred with her then-husband, James Karen, in regional productions of "Brigadoon" and "Finian's Rainbow." She is survived by her son, Reed Karen.

'Andy Griffith Show' actress robbed in 'Mayberry'

MOUNT AIRY, N.C. (AP)—The actress who played Thelma Lou on "The Andy Griffith Show" was robbed in the town that inspired the show's idyllic Mayberry setting, after moving to the area to avoid big city crime. Betty Lou Lynn had her wallet stolen at a shopping center in Mount Airy, the birthplace of Andy Griffith. The Mount Airy News reports that police arrested Shirley Walter Guynn of Cana, Va. He's being held in Surry County Jail on a $10,000 bond. It was not immediately clear Thursday if he has a lawyer. In an earlier interview with the newspaper, the 83-year-old Lynn said she moved to Mount Airy after being robbed three times in Los Angeles. In the TV series, Thelma Lou was the girlfriend of Deputy Barney Fife, played by Don Knotts.

Journals by Philip K. Dick to be published in 2011

NEW YORK (AP)—Journals kept by science fiction great Philip K. Dick about his visionary experiences are being published next year. "The Exegesis," long an object of fascination for the author's fans, will be released in the Fall 2011 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, the publisher announced Thursday. Dick is known for such visionary works as "The Man in the High Castle" and "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?," the basis for the film "Blade Runner." Dick died in 1982 at age 53.

Mother's criticism echoes in public restroom stalls

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a plus-sized woman who finds it difficult to squeeze into a tiny restroom stall. I frequently use the stall for people with disabilities because it's larger.

A few years ago, when I was traveling with my mother, we made a pit stop and, as usual, I headed for the large stall. Mom was horrified. She said the large stalls should be treated the same as parking places for people with disabilities and used only by those who are disabled.

I told her I disagreed, thinking that a few moments in the potty is different from a few hours in a parking space. Was my mother right? Her voice still rings in my ears every time I step into the larger stall. I'd appreciate your input. Maybe it'll silence my mother's voice.

JENNIFER IN MAINE

DEAR JENNIFER: Because you have difficulty fitting into a regular stall, I see nothing wrong with using the larger one. If a woman in a wheelchair entered the bathroom at the same time as you, then good manners would dictate that you defer to her because she'd be unable to use a smaller one. However, there's no reason for the stall to be kept empty at all times, so stop being so hard on yourself.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two children, a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old. He has been deployed since June. We talk frequently on the phone, and I have been managing well since his deployment.

My problem is, I'm afraid I have managed too well. I am terrified that when he gets back we will have grown apart. I am so used to doing things on my own now that I'm not sure I will be able to go back to our "normal" routine of his helping me with the kids.

Abby, what are your thoughts? We love each other very much and had a wonderful relationship before he deployed, but I don't know how well you can gauge a relationship over the phone and via e-mail.

ARMY WIFE IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR ARMY WIFE: The feelings you're having are not unusual for spouses whose partners are in the military. The repeated separations are painful and wrenching for all the family members involved. I have a deep respect for the spouses of military personnel who must adapt to long separations and the reunions that follow.

Of course there will be a period of adjustment when your husband returns. It will take understanding and compromise on the part of both of you. If you love each other, you will work it out—with counseling if necessary. And should you hit a rough patch, please don't hesitate to reach out for it.

DEAR ABBY: My husband lost his son a few years back. His death was sudden and unexpected. We had no children of our own, but I had a wonderful relationship with my stepson.

When people ask if I have children, I'm never quite sure how to respond. On the one hand, I don't want to make anyone uncomfortable by telling them my stepson is deceased, but I also don't feel right not acknowledging him. Any advice on how to handle this kind of question?

STEPMOM IN OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR STEPMOM: I'm sorry for the loss of your stepson. When you are asked, my advice is to be honest. Say, "I had a stepson with whom I was very close, but he passed away a few years ago."

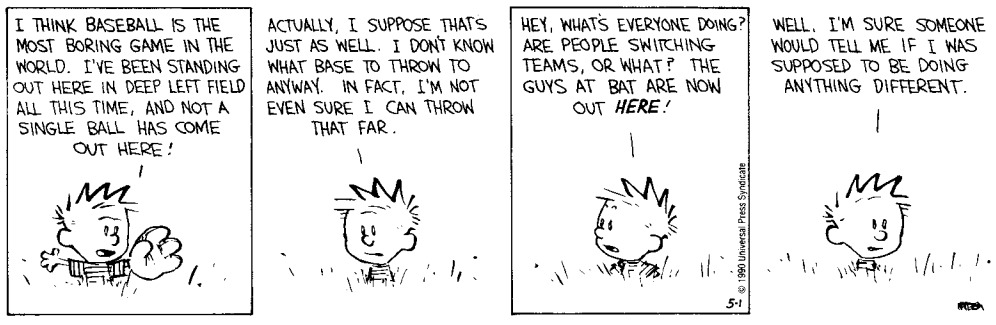
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

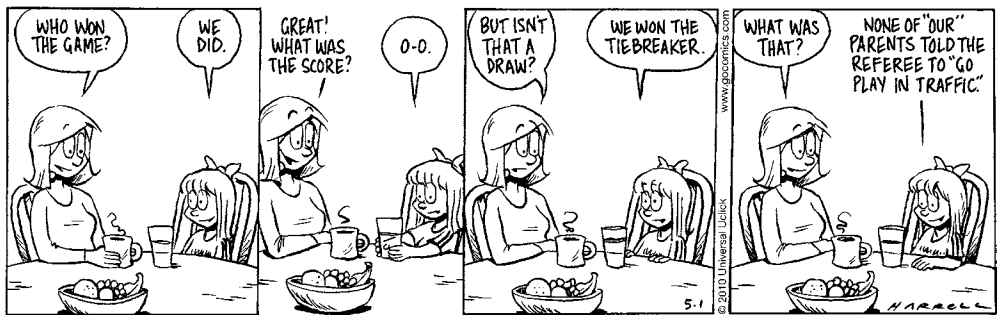


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

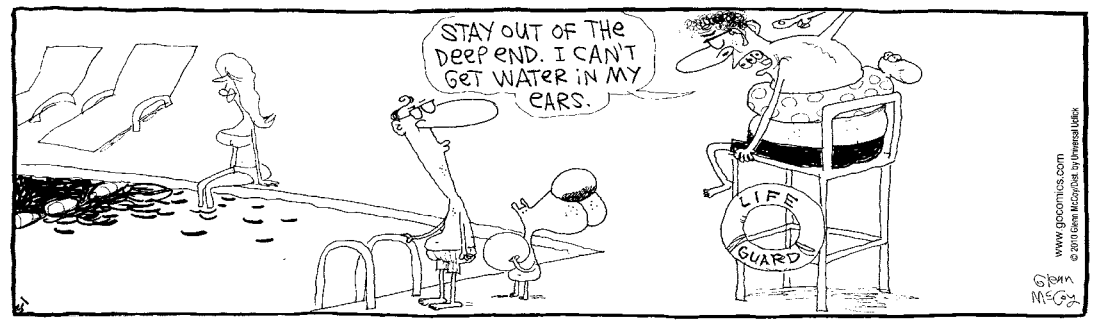
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

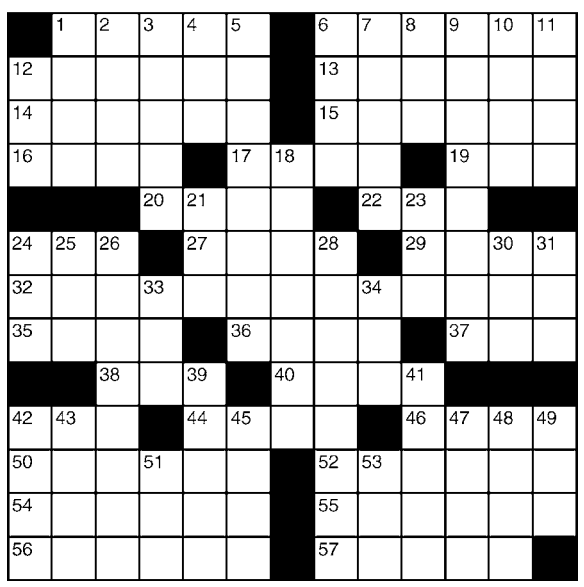
ACROSS
1 Roulette bet
6 Plagiarizes
12 Magoo's problem
13 Like 1-2-3, vis-a-vis I-II-III
14 Salt Laker, e.g.
15 Queasiness
16 Ms. Moore
17 Food critic Greene
19 Mangy mutt
20 Small amount
22 "The Greatest"
24 Not Rep. or Dem.
27 Mexico City Olympics awards
29 Capri, e.g.
32 Director's directive
35 Luminary
36 Curved molding
37 Khan title
38 Fond du —
40 Nimble
42 Gymnastics surface
44 Jam ingredient?
46 Adams or Falco
50 Scrubs a NASA mission
52 Whistleblowers
54 Threat
55 Polar sight
56 Hebrew letters
57 Dovetail component

DOWN
1 Memory measure
2 Rich soil
3 Garden pest
4 Espionage org.
5 Joey, e.g.
6 Logical
7 Refrain syllables
8 — de Cologne
9 Ordinate counterpart
10 Stead
11 "Lion King" baddie
12 Pie makeup?
18 In the thick of
21 Balderdash
23 Whopper
24 Mensa stats
25 Enthusiast
26 Hum on a line
28 "Hurry!"
30 "The Amazing Race" segment
31 Hellenes' H
33 Mound fig.
34 That girl
39 Snag
41 Red Sea land
42 Vicki Lawrence character
43 The third man
45 Works with
47 Erte's style
48 Dr. Seuss' "If — the Circus"
49 Kreskin's claim
51 Knock
53 Expert

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	P	A		S	P	A	R		M	O	A	T
A	R	M		H	U	G	E		A	N	T	I
C	O	M	P	O	S	E	D		D	E	E	P
S	P	O	O	F	S		U	M	A			
				P	A	Y		C	O	M	P	L	Y
C	R	I	E	R		F	E	W		L	I	U
H	I	T	S		S	A	D		B	E	E	R
I	C	E		F	I	X		T	O	A	S	T
C	O	M	P	E	L		C	A	N			
				L	E	I		A	R	E	T	E	S
B	R	I	O		C	O	M	P	R	I	S	E
B	A	R	T		O	R	E	O		E	S	P
C	H	E	Z		N	E	O	N		D	O	T

Yesterday's answer 5-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wes Anderson, 41; Tim McGraw, 43; Rita Coolidge, 66; Judy Collins, 71

Happy Birthday: Change your way of handling money and the people who can influence what you earn or save. Don't allow someone else's burden to leave you short. You may not always like the changes going on around you but, if you are adaptable, you will secure your position and stabilize your life. Your numbers are 6, 10, 13, 28, 31, 34, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You need a break. Socializing will be informative and will give you reason to consider some changes in your life. Love is in the stars. A goal you share with someone can come true. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll get frustrated if you set impossible goals. Do what's real and attainable. You will feel satisfied with your efforts and the results you get. An investment will not be all it's made out to be. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Trying to be the center of attention will backfire. If you exaggerate or promise the impossible, you will face criticism. An emotional incident between you and someone you care for will leave you in a precarious position. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Getting involved in something you enjoy or lending a helping hand will lead to social activity, changing your outlook and your future. The right set of circumstances will be present for you to make effortless alterations, resulting in a new lease on life. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Being upfront and personal about the way you feel will keep you out of trouble and help you get whatever you are lacking in your life. Look within, make a lifestyle change that suits you and never look back. Recognizing and admitting will lead to a better future. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't be afraid to make changes or to meet someone halfway to resolve issues that are causing friction. Expressing your feelings and your thoughts with clarity and compassion will be convincing enough for whoever is listening. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take a good look at what you have, what you have lost and what you want to acquire. You can do anything you set your mind to if you are true to your beliefs and maintain your integrity. Good fortune is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): If anyone tries to railroad you into making last-minute changes, take a pass. A relationship that means a lot to you can be enhanced if you are confident when you speak about your plans for the future. Your ideas are good and appear to be profitable. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Reacting too fast or harshly will set your plans back and damage your reputation. It may not be easy to stand by and watch, but if you meddle, you will end up being blamed. An unexpected change at home will leave you questioning what you should do next. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't push your luck if you are dealing with authority. Focus on home and family. You can stabilize your life or you can create problems that will leave you feeling isolated. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The less you complain, the better you will look in the eyes of others. Let someone else be the one making all the fuss and you will end up in a position that can help you overcome a personal situation you've been faced with. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get in touch with old friends and it will open up a floodgate of memories, awakening old but interesting goals. Before you know it, you will be indulging in an interesting and potentially profitable endeavor. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious and sensitive and have pizzazz and charisma. You are generous, imaginative and unafraid of failure.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		4	9		7		
				7		8		6
2	3							
								5
6	9			5			1	7
7								
							9	8
4		5		2				
		1		8	4		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	1	5	7	3	2	9	6
9	7	3	2	6	8	5	1	4
6	2	5	4	1	9	7	3	8
1	6	2	8	4	7	3	5	9
3	5	9	6	2	1	4	8	7
7	4	8	9	3	5	6	2	1
8	3	7	1	5	6	9	4	2
2	9	6	3	8	4	1	7	5
5	1	4	7	9	2	8	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'THE REPUBLIC' (PLATO) **Solution: 10 letters**

E	T	H	R	A	S	Y	M	A	C	H	U	S	P	L
S	V	W	L	O	R	U	H	K	I	N	G	S	I	A
E	S	A	U	Y	R	T	E	N	I	L	C	E	D	C
T	U	L	C	U	S	E	S	A	L	A	T	I	N	I
A	H	L	L	G	R	I	M	E	M	A	N	O	S	T
R	C	E	U	G	O	L	A	I	D	I	T	R	N	I
C	R	B	O	L	S	V	O	S	G	S	T	E	E	L
O	A	S	A	R	S	I	E	Y	I	E	I	C	H	O
M	M	R	E	S	Y	V	S	R	T	C	R	I	T	P
R	E	E	D	T	I	T	A	E	N	E	I	C	A	P
E	L	D	I	S	A	S	O	A	N	A	I	T	P	O
H	O	R	I	T	T	R	U	O	C	E	N	C	Y	L
O	P	O	E	H	N	O	C	U	A	L	G	C	O	I
P	N	R	E	H	P	O	S	O	L	I	H	P	E	S
E	U	T	H	Y	D	E	M	U	S	C	E	N	E	Y

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 5/1

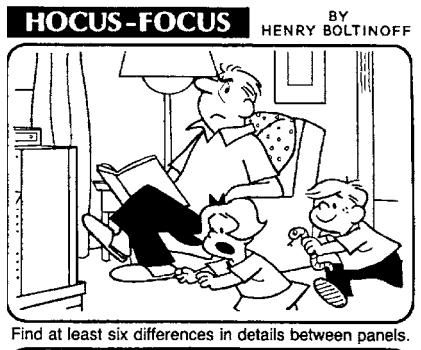
Ancient, Ariston, Arts, Athens, Basis, Cave, Cicero, City, Court, Decline, Dialogue, Euthydemus, Genesis, Glaucon, Governance, Greek, Hermocrates, Hope, Idea, Kings, Latin, Lysias, Name, Order, Philosopher, Polemarchus, Polis, Political, Regime, Ruler, Scene, Society, Socrates, Soul, State, Theory, Thrasymachus, Timaeus, Vision, Wall

Yesterday's Answer: Collector

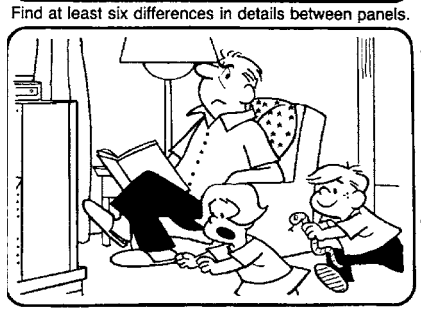
Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume. to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Pillow is different. 2. Hair bow is missing. 3. Snake is longer. 4. Picture is missing. 5. TV is taller. 6. Shirt has buttons.

Wishing Well®

8	6	4	2	4	8	4	5	3	5	8	7	4
J	G	A	A	L	O	E	T	P	E	Y	N	R
2	5	7	2	7	2	3	5	7	4	8	4	8
W	A	E	A	W	R	R	C	G	T	F	N	R
5	7	3	2	3	4	5	8	5	7	3	2	8
H	O	O	M	P	E	S	O	U	A	H	F	M
7	6	2	4	3	8	2	4	8	5	3	8	3
L	O	R	S	E	T	I	S	E	C	T	E	I
8	2	7	8	4	8	7	2	7	6	8	4	5
N	E	S	A	P	G	S	N	E	A	E	A	C
4	3	2	3	4	7	5	8	2	4	2	3	2
Y	C	D	D	S	T	E	R	S	O	H	R	I
6	4	3	5	6	3	5	2	3	6	4	3	6
H	F	E	S	E	A	S	P	M	A	F	S	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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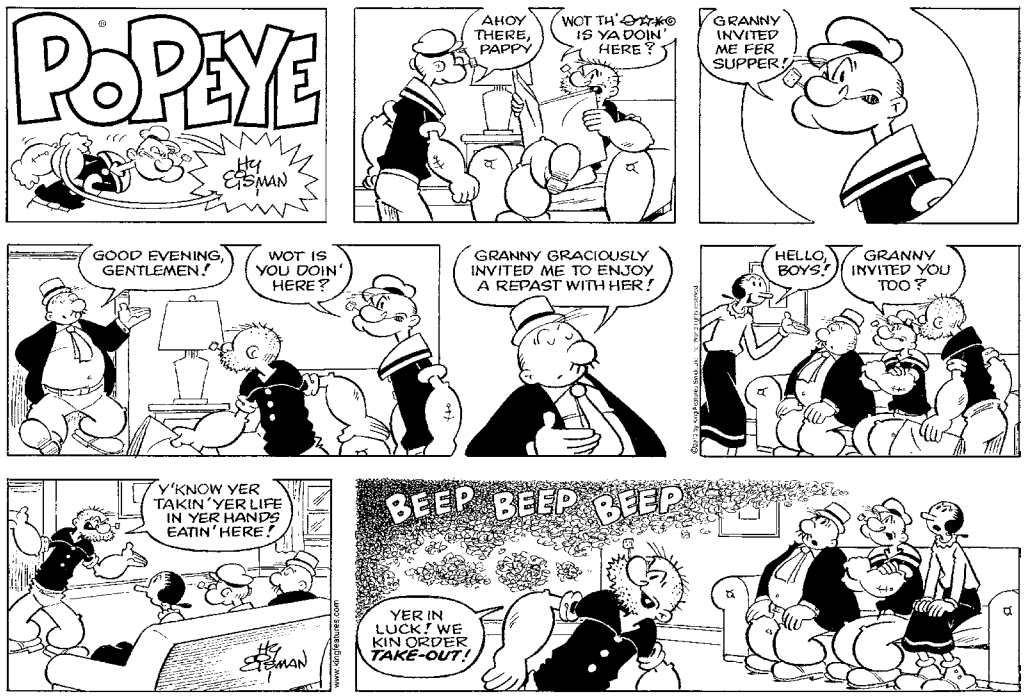
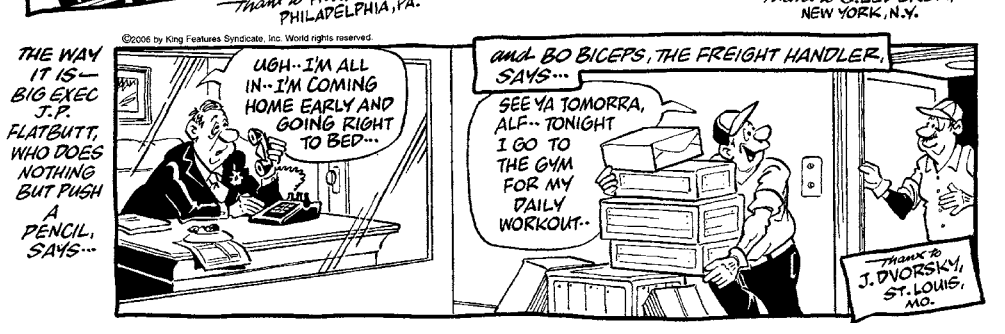
POPEYE

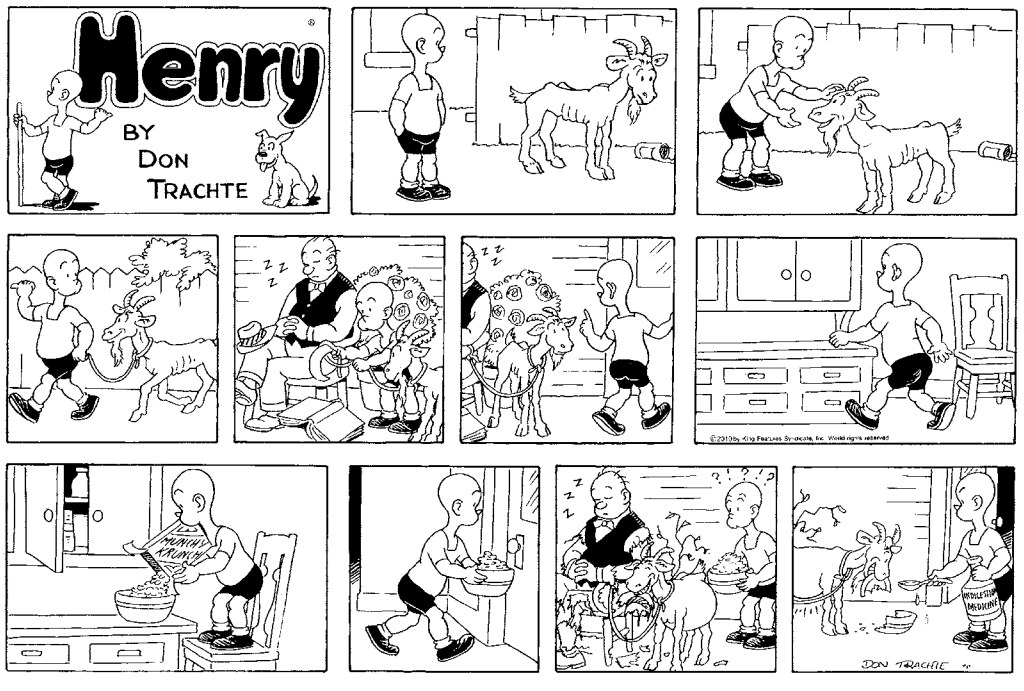


They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto



Henry

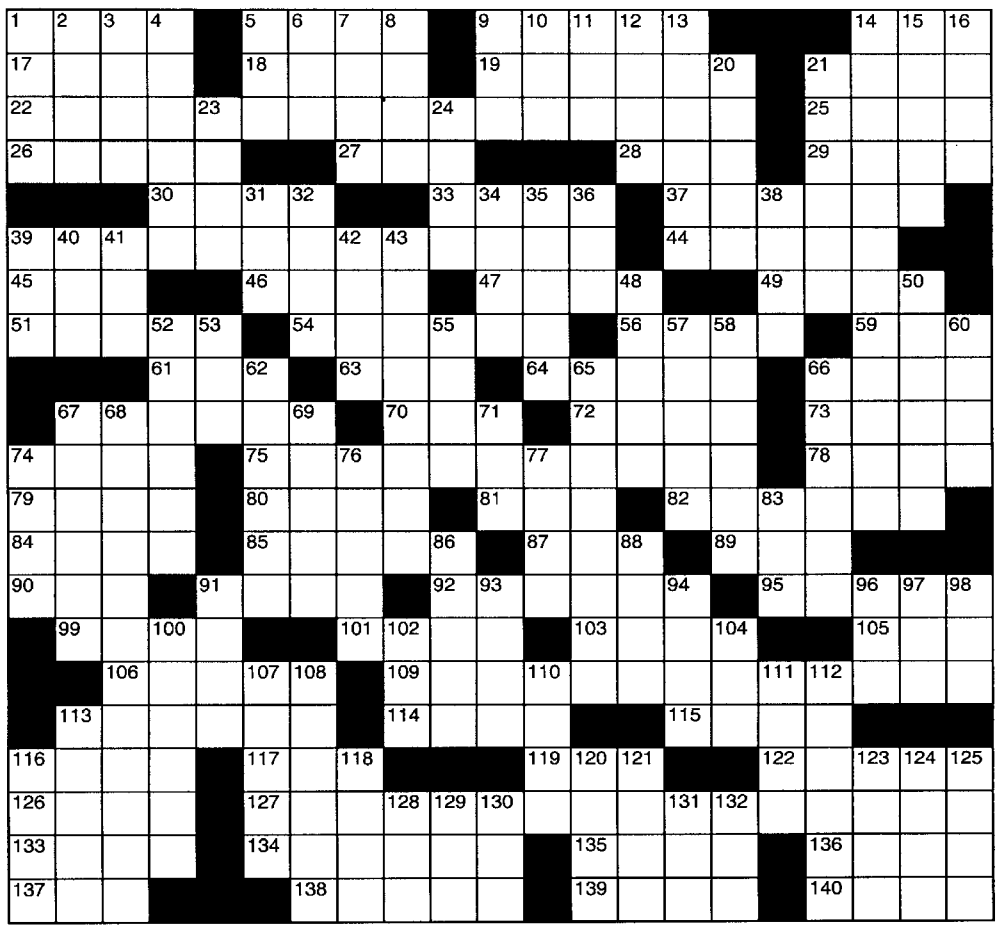
BY DON TRACHTE



Super Crossword FOR THE BIRDS

ACROSS
1 Sagan or Sandburg
5 Swarm sound
9 Montana city
14 Monterrey Mrs.
17 '58 Pulitzer winner
18 Piece of fencing?
19 He was "The Thing"
21 Pipe part
22 WREN
25 Brobdingnagian
26 For — (cheaply)
27 Comic Costello
28 — Na Na
29 Mascagni opera
30 Poet Wilcox
33 Lohengrin's bird
37 African antelopes
39 LARK
44 "The Optimist's Daughter" author
45 Bonanza material
46 Coveleski or Musial
47 Vichyssoise veggie
49 Tip one's topper
51 Long-tailed parrot
54 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
56 Scandinavian city
59 Griffon greeting
61 Fool
63 Missouri airport abbr.
64 Valuable instrument
66 Stowe sight
67 Screenwriter Nora
70 Elf
72 Dash
73 Sarah — Jewett
74 Inland sea
75 QUAIL
78 Depravity
79 Easy stride
80 Bit of gossip
81 Parenthesis shape
82 Physicist Fermi
84 Corset part
85 Alfredo ingredient
87 British big shot
89 Monsarrat's "The Cruel —"
90 Tulsa commodity
91 Cheat at hide-and-seek
92 Preposterous
95 Sweetheart
99 Turn over
101 Darjeeling dress
103 Invasion
105 Frankfurter's field
106 Rent
109 CRANE
113 Church official
114 Oriental staple
115 Big rig
116 Channel
117 Actress Hagen
119 Plutarch character
122 Tole material
126 Be important
127 PARTRIDGE
133 Actor Novello
134 Kindle
135 Heart burn?
136 Time for a sandwich
137 According to
138 German port
139 Racing legend
140 Guy Fri.

DOWN
1 — Grande, AZ
2 FBI workers
3 "— Man" ('84 film)
4 Not as fatty
5 Neighbor of Ger.
6 Prosperous times
7 Non-nonchalance?
8 Nil
9 Crank's comment
10 Swiss canton
11 Explosive initials
12 Golfer's gadgets
13 Avoid
14 DUCK
15 Toomey or Philbin
16 Iowa city
20 Musty
21 Japanese religion
23 Hard on the eyes
24 Astrology term
31 Brown or Baxter
32 Vino center
34 Corduroy ridge
35 Writer Rogers St. Johns
36 Formerly known as
38 Moro of Italy
39 One who no's best?
40 Distinctive period
41 — room
42 Singer Elliot
43 Bete noire
48 Adorable Australian
50 Tenor Corelli
52 One of the Judds
53 Tolstoy title start
55 Coalition
57 Play ground?
58 Bedding
60 At large
62 Word with dog or state
65 "Never on Sunday" star
66 Good-humored
67 Amatory
68 CARDINAL
69 — Dame
71 Anaconda, for one
74 As well
76 Pursues
77 Coffee pots
83 Ring counter
86 Andretti or Cuomo
88 Fiber source
91 Swamp stuff
93 "Death of a Salesman" son
94 Pad
96 Ryan's "Love Story" co-star
97 Bud
98 Fluffy female
100 Crime writer Colin
102 PC key
104 SHAEF commander
107 "The March King"
108 Whole
110 Stamping ground
111 TV award
112 Strauss city
113 Debonair
116 — coffee
118 Energy source
120 One of a pair
121 South Seas novel
123 New Mexico resort
124 John of "Roots"
125 Expected back
128 Bossy's chew
129 Sugary suffix
130 Guys
131 College growth
132 Empower



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: What 1997 movie starred actors Helen Hunt and Jack Nicholson?
2. MYTHOLOGY: What was the unusual feature possessed by Sleipnir, the horse belonging to the chief Norse god Odin?
3. LANGUAGE: What is meant by the French term "lèse-majesté"?
4. TELEVISION: What was the name of the headmistress in "The Facts of Life"?
5. POETRY: Who wrote the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay"?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only kind of food that a silkworm will eat?
7. LEGAL: If someone dies "intestate," what does that mean?
8. CHEMISTRY: What is the symbol for the element tungsten?
9. CHILDREN'S STORIES: How many trips does Jack make to the Giant's castle in "Jack and the Beanstalk"?
10. DISCOVERIES: What did 17th-century scientist William Harvey discover about the human body?

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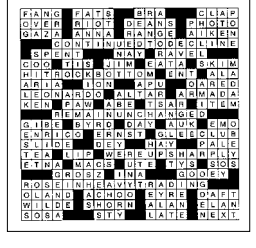
Answers
1. "As Good as It Gets"
2. Eight legs
3. Crime against a ruler
4. Edna Garrett
5. Robert Frost
6. Mulberry leaves
7. Without a will
8. W
9. Three
10. The role of arteries and veins in the circulation of blood

Saturday's Answers



The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

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Spurs finish off No. 2 seed Mavericks in 6 games

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The Spurs moved on, and Dallas is done early again.

Manu Ginobili scored 26 points and San Antonio survived blowing a 22-point lead to beat the Mavericks 97-87 in Game 6 on Thursday night, handing Dirk Nowitzki and second-seeded Dallas another first-round exit.

The Spurs got payback after the Mavs eliminated them a year ago, and will play either Phoenix or Portland in the Western Conference semifinals.

"For us there was no tomorrow," Ginobili said after the Spurs finished off the Mavs in front of a raucous home crowd and avoided going back to Dallas for a Game 7.

Nowitzki nearly carried the Mavs to an unbelievable comeback, getting 25 of his 33 points in a remarkable second half. But the Mavs still stumbled to their third first-round exit in the last four years.

George Hill had 21 points for the Spurs, who are coming off their worst regular season in the Tim Duncan era—making this series all the more impressive.

It will technically go down as an upset. San Antonio is only the fifth No. 7 seed to win a first-round series, and the first since the opening round became a best-of-7 in 2003. It hadn't been done since New York beat Miami in 1998.

But with a healthy Big Three and a championship pedigree, the Spurs could hardly be called underdogs. And with no clear favorite in the West, they might be as good a finals pick as any.

As for the Mavs, it was yet another early playoff disappointment.

It comes three years after the Mavs came into the postseason as the No. 1 seed, only to be knocked out by No. 8 Golden State. The Mavs were the NBA's best road team in the regular season, but went 0-3 in San Antonio and couldn't pull themselves out of a 3-1 deficit.

This one is especially tough for team owner Mark Cuban, who plunked down an extra $30 million for a deal at the trade deadline that brought Caron Butler from Washington.

Butler scored 25 points and rookie Rodrigue Beaubois had 16 points. But aside from them and Nowitzki, no other Dallas player scored more than six points.

Now comes an interesting offseason for a team that's won 50 games for 10 straight seasons, but has only one trip to the NBA finals to show for it.

AP

San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) celebrates with teammate Manu Ginobili (20), of Argentina, as Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki, right, of Germany, looks on during the fourth quarter of Game 6 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Thursday, April 29, 2010, in San Antonio.

Will coach Rick Carlisle return? What about Nowitzki? Dallas isn't likely to get rid of either. Nowitzki also could choose to become a free agent, although he's steadily said he won't. There's no telling how this early exit will change Cuban's approach toward a bumper crop of free agents.

In the meantime, the Mavs will have a long time to sulk over this one.

Plagued by slow starts in this series, Dallas got off to its worst yet when it mattered most. The Mavs trailed 22-8 after the first quarter, hitting just four of their first 18 shots. By halftime it was 47-34, a franchise playoff low for Dallas.

But the Mavs clawed back.

Nowitzki, who had four fouls in the first half, shrugged off the foul trouble and put Dallas ahead 57-56 with a 3-pointer midway through the third quarter. Cuban jumped out of his chair behind the Mavs bench, while the Spurs watched their big lead evaporate in disbelief.

But Hill, the hero of Game 4 for the Spurs, came through again to finish off Dallas. He scored 10 points in the fourth, none bigger than a corner 3-pointer with 3:19 left that put the Spurs up 89-81 and deflated Dallas.

The Spurs wanted to play the Mavericks so badly that they basically forced the matchup. By benching Duncan and Ginobili in the season finale against Dallas, they made it easier for the Mavs to win and seal them as the second and seventh seeds.

It looked like a case of being careful what you wish for when Dallas won the opener by 12 points. But San Antonio evened the series with a road win in Game 2, then swept two home games.

When the arena cleared out after winning a third home game, Spurs owner Peter Holt - who's much quieter than his Dallas counterpart - had his own words while walking across the court.

"Go Spurs Go!" he roared.

Suns 99, Blazers 90

At Portland, Ore., Jason Richardson scored 28 points, including five 3-pointers, and the Phoenix Suns advanced to the second round of the playoffs with a victory over the Portland Trail Blazers in Game 6.

The third-seeded Suns will face seventh-seeded San Antonio, which advanced by beating Dallas 97-97 on Thursday night. The opening game of the Western Conference semifinals is Monday night in Phoenix.

The Suns last went to the second round in 2007, when they got past the Los Angeles Lakers to open the playoffs before falling to the Spurs. In 2008, the Spurs got the best of Phoenix in the first round.

Grant Hill of the Suns advanced past the first round for the first time in his career.

The Suns went up 53-41 at halftime and led by as many as 16 points in the second half. The Blazers tied it at 76 midway through the fourth quarter, but could not pull ahead.

Martell Webster had 19 points for Portland, which failed to advance out of the first round for the second straight year.

The Blazers narrowed it to 74-71 with 10:44 left on Rudy Fernandez's 3-pointer. Jared Dudley fouled Webster on a 3-point attempt, and Webster made two free throws to close within 74-73.

After Leandro Barbosa's bank shot, Jerryd Bayless hit a long jumper that pulled Portland within one. Amare Stoudemire fouled LaMarcus Aldridge, who made one of two free throws to tie it at 76.

Stoudemire's layup prevented Portland from taking the lead, and Goran Dragic added a rebound to put the Suns in front 80-76. Phoenix extended it on two consecutive layups and a 3-pointer from Richardson to make it 87-78 with 4:36 left.

Steve Nash sealed it with a 3-pointer that gave the Suns a 92-82 lead.

Stoudemire finished with 22 points for the Suns.

Brandon Roy had 14 points for the Blazers in his first start of the series. Portland's three-time All-Star had arthroscopic surgery for a torn meniscus in his right knee two days before the series against the Suns opened.

He was originally ruled out of the first round, but unexpectedly came back for Game 4, which the Blazers won 96-87 at the Rose Garden.

Roy had 10 points in that game, then got just five in Portland's 107-88 Game 5 loss in Phoenix, but he was coming off the bench which he said made him uncomfortable.

The Suns, who found success in the series when they established a fast pace, went up 17-6 early with Richardson hitting three 3-pointers.

But Stoudemire collected two quick fouls and retreated to the bench. Richardson wound up with 14 points after the first quarter, but it was tempered by Nash's five turnovers.

Portland narrowed it to 28-26 on Fernandez's 3-pointer.

The Suns stretched it out to 41-32, but Roy finally came alive, hitting a running 3-pointer from the top of the key with 4:51 to go in the half. It was Roy's first basket of the half.

Hill's fast-break layup and free throw made it 53-40. Richardson finished the first half with 19 points. He made all four of his 3-point attempts. Channing Frye's 3-pointer put Phoenix up 64-50 midway through the third quarter.

But Webster hit consecutive 3-pointers that narrowed it to 69-65. But Dudley answered with a 3-pointer for the Suns.

The Suns are 6-1 in their last six potential series-clinching games.

Portland has never won a series that they have trailed 3-2.

Woods all wet at Quail Hollow

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Tiger Woods delivered a few memorable shots of his own Thursday at Quail Hollow on a pleasant day that produced birdies and eagles and plenty of excitement.

It's just not what he had in mind.

He hit a tee shot into the water on the par-3 17th that produced little reaction except to hold out his hand for another ball. He hit his next tee shot into the water and had to scramble for bogey. And he wound up with a 2-over 74 that left him nine shots behind Bo Van Pelt and ended his streak of 21 straight rounds at par or better.

"I hit a bunch of balls left, I hit a bunch of balls right, hit a few down the middle," Woods said. "And that was about it."

For everyone else—Masters champion Phil Mickelson included with his 70—there was so much more.

Mickelson had a severe stomach ailment that forced him to withdraw from the pro-am Wednesday, and he started feeling it when he climbed the steep hill to the 15th green. He two-putted for birdie to reach 4 under for his round, only to three-putt from the fringe on the 17th and made another bogey from the trees on the 18th.

"I may have run out of energy there toward the end, but I hit some good shots and was able to shoot a decent round," Mickelson said.

Van Pelt is using an old putter that he had refurbished, and he already got strong results in Hilton Head two weeks ago with a tie for third, his best finish of the year. The opening round of the Quail Hollow Championship was even better, as Van Pelt made birdie on all the par 5s and made it through the tough closing stretch with all pars.

Kenny Perry shot a 66 and didn't let the finish ruin his day. After a flawless shot into 8 feet for eagle on the par-5 seventh, he hit his drive 35 yards short of the green on the par-4 eighth and had an open angle at the pin. But he didn't commit to the delicate wedge, and the ball rolled back to his feet. That turned potential birdie—and the outright lead—into a bogey.

"One little blunder," Perry said. "But it was a fun round of golf. It's been a long time since I've played like that."

Camilo Villegas played bogey-free for a 67, while the group at 68 featured a collection of players that included former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy, Monday qualifier Billy Mayfair and Brad Faxon, who has made only two cuts this year while spending time working for NBC Sports.

"When you start trending like I did with a 74th-place finish last week, you could see this coming," Faxon said, laughing.

Woods hasn't played enough to detect any trends, although this would count as a step backward with his golf. He was coming off a tie for fourth in the Masters, his first competition in five months, in which he broke par all four rounds for the first time at Augusta National.

In his second tournament since his hiatus from being caught in a web of infidelity—the first one with tickets available to the general public—the applause was loud and genuine, with nothing remotely close to heckling.

Trouble was, Woods didn't give thousands of fans who braved chilly morning weather much to applaud.

There was that opening birdie on the par-5 10th. There also were the two shots into the water, four shots into or close to the trees, and the wrong club on his last hole that sent the ball well over the ninth green for one last bogey.

It was his highest opening round at a regular PGA Tour event since he shot 75 at The Players Championship three years ago. Woods kept his cool on the golf course, but he was in no mood to find a fix when he was done with his round.

Padres set singles record, beat Brewers

AP

San Diego Padres starting pitcher Wade LeBlanc works against the Milwaukee Brewers in the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, April 29, 2010, in San Diego.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—-The San Diego Padres tied a team record with seven straight singles during a five-run fifth inning, setting up a 9-0 win over the Milwaukee Brewers in the National League on Thursday.

The NL West-leading Padres got all their 13 hits from singles, winning their seventh straight home game and for the 11th time in 13 games overall.

San Diego starter Wade LeBlanc (2-0) got a career-high three hits, and was also impressive from the mound, striking out six and walking none in 6-1/3 scoreless innings.

After struggling early against Milwaukee starter Doug Davis (0-3), including taking four straight called third strikes, the Padres broke through with four runs on four hits in the fourth. The first four Padres batters reached base and scored.

Cardinals 10, Braves 4

In St. Louis, rookie David Freese homered, doubled and drove in six runs as St. Louis sent Atlanta to its ninth straight loss.

The Braves wrapped up an 0-7 road trip, their first winless swing of seven or more games since 1949 when the franchise was located in Boston.

Starter Adam Wainwright (4-1) worked six solid innings as the Cardinals completed a four-game sweep—their first sweep of Atlanta since 1993.

Diamondbacks 13, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Ian Kennedy pitched eight strong innings for his first victory in 2 1/2 years, steering Arizona past Chicago.

Kennedy (1-1) allowed only one run in the first seven innings as the Diamondbacks built a 13-1 lead before giving up Kosuke Fukudome's grand slam in the eighth.

Adam LaRoche drove in five runs with two homers and a double, while Kelly Johnson and Chris Snyder also connected for Arizona, which leads the majors with 33 homers. Johnson, who has an NL-high nine homers and has gone deep six times in the past seven games, also had three singles.

Reds 4, Astros 2

In Houston, Bronson Arroyo pitched 6 2-3 strong innings for his first win of the season, helping Cincinnati down Houston.

Arroyo (1-2) allowed two runs with seven strikeouts to bounce back from his last start, when he allowed eight runs in three-plus innings.

Joey Votto hit a first-pitch two-run homer as the Reds won their fourth straight and inflicted a third successive defeat on the Astros.

Pirates 2, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Pittsburgh pushed Los Angeles to a fifth straight loss.

Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw (1-1) walked his first two batters of the game, and both scored when Ryan Doumit's sinking liner got past Dodgers centerfielder Matt Kemp as he tried to backhand it on the short hop.

Tigers 3, Twins 0

In Detroit, Dontrelle Willis pitched four-hit ball over six-plus innings in perhaps his best performance with the Detroit Tigers, a 3-0 win over the Minnesota Twins

Willis (1-1) struck out six — his highest total since 2007 when he was with the Florida Marlins — and walked only two.

Johnny Damon's sacrifice fly in the first put the Tigers ahead 1-0, Austin Jackson's RBI single in the fifth made it 2-0 and Don Kelly's two-out single in the eighth helped the Tigers win the series from their division rival.

White Sox 7 Rangers 5

In Arlington, Texas, Paul Konerko hit two home runs after Chicago took advantage of a wild pitch, two errors and two walks to grab the lead against Texas and avoid a three-game sweep.

Konerko leads the majors with 10 homers after hitting a solo drive in the eighth and a two-run shot in the ninth. He also drove in another run with a sacrifice fly.

Texas starter Scott Feldman pitched into the seventh with a two-run lead, but was gone after an error and a walk against the first two batters. Darren O'Day (0-1) gave up an RBI single to A.J. Pierzynski and a walk to load the bases before Dustin Nippert threw a wild pitch that allowed the White Sox to score the tying and go-ahead runs.

Blue Jays 6, Athletics 3

In Toronto, John Buck became the first catcher to hit three home runs in six years and Travis Snider added a solo shot for the Blue Jays.

Buck led off the third inning with a drive off right-hander Justin Duchscherer into the left field bullpen. His next two homers came off left-handers. He greeted reliever Jerry Blevins with a three-run homer into the second deck in left in the fourth and connected against Craig Breslow for a solo shot in the sixth, off the center field restaurant.

Buck got a standing ovation from the crowd of 10,721 when he led off the eighth against Oakland righty Andrew Bailey. He swung and missed the first two pitches, fouled one back, then flied out to right. The fans remained standing as Buck jogged back to the dugout.

Rays 11, Royals 1

In St. Petersburg, Matt Garza gave up one run over six sharp innings, while Jason Bartlett and Reid Brignac drove in three runs apiece for the home team.

At 17-5, the Rays are off to the best start in the majors after 22 games since 2003. Tampa Bay has won 14 of 16, outscoring opponents 117-44 during the stretch.

Yankees 4, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, A.J. Burnett pitched eight innings of three-hit ball and Robinson Cano homered twice as the New York Yankees beat Brian Matusz and the Orioles.

Marcus Thames had three hits and an RBI for the Yankees, who took two of three from Baltimore to finish a three-city road trip with a 5-4 record.

Burnett (3-0) struck out four and walked one to improve to 10-2 lifetime against the Orioles. He allowed only two runners past first base, and only one reached third.

Burnett has been pitching in the majors since 1999, and this is the first time he's 3-0.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	17	5	.773	—
New York	14	7	.667	2 1/2
Boston	11	11	.500	6
Toronto	11	12	.478	6 1/2
Baltimore	4	18	.182	13

Central Division

Minnesota	14	8	.636	—
Detroit	13	10	.565	1 1/2
Cleveland	9	12	.429	4 1/2
Chicago	9	13	.409	5
Kansas City	8	14	.364	6

West Division

Los Angeles	12	11	.522	—
Oakland	12	11	.522	—
Seattle	11	11	.500	1/2
Texas	10	12	.455	1 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	13	9	.591	—
Philadelphia	12	9	.571	1/2
Washington	12	10	.545	1
Florida	11	11	.500	2
Atlanta	8	14	.364	5

Central Division

St. Louis	15	7	.682	—
Cincinnati	11	11	.500	4
Pittsburgh	10	12	.455	5
Chicago	10	13	.435	5 1/2
Milwaukee	9	13	.409	6
Houston	8	13	.381	6 1/2

West Division

San Diego	14	8	.636	—
San Francisco	12	9	.571	1 1/2
Arizona	11	11	.500	3
Colorado	11	11	.500	3
Los Angeles	8	14	.364	6

Yesterday's Games

St. Louis 10, Atlanta 4
Arizona 13, Chicago Cubs 5
Cincinnati 4, Houston 2
San Diego 9, Milwaukee 0
Pittsburgh 2, L.A. Dodgers 0
Detroit 3, Minnesota 0
Chicago White Sox 7, Texas 5
N.Y. Yankees 4, Baltimore 0
Toronto 6, Oakland 3
Tampa Bay 11, Kansas City 1

QUAIL HOLLOW CHAMPIONSHIP

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Scores Thursday after the opening round of the PGA Tour's $6.5 million Quail Hollow Championship at the 7,469-yard, par-72 Quail Hollow Club course:

FIRST ROUND

Bo Van Pelt	33-32–65
Kenny Perry	33-33–66
Camilo Villegas	33-34–67
Billy Mayfair	34-34–68
Paul Goydos	35-33–68
Geoff Ogilvy	36-32–68
J.J. Henry	34-34–68
Andres Romero	33-35–68
Brad Faxon	34-34–68
Ricky Barnes	34-35–69
Cameron Percy	33-36–69
Brian Stuard	32-37–69
Heath Slocum	34-35–69
Garth Mulroy	34-35–69
Alex Cejka	33-37–70
Nick Watney	35-35–70
Angel Cabrera	33-37–70
Davis Love III	34-36–70
Rod Pampling	35-35–70
Greg Chalmers	35-35–70
Scott McCarron	36-34–70
Bubba Watson	32-38–70
Harrison Frazar	36-34–70
Brendon de Jonge	35-35–70
Rocco Mediate	31-39–70
Phil Mickelson	35-35–70
Troy Matteson	36-34–70
Brandt Snedeker	34-36–70
David Duval	34-37–71
Tim Herron	36-35–71
Bill Haas	36-35–71
Hunter Mahan	38-33–71
Robert Allenby	38-33–71
Jeff Overton	32-39–71
Lucas Glover	34-37–71
Zach Johnson	35-36–71
Will MacKenzie	35-36–71
Mark Calcavecchia	36-35–71
Ben Curtis	34-37–71
David Toms	33-38–71
Vaughn Taylor	35-36–71
Jarrod Lyle	36-35–71
Tom Gillis	38-33–71
Anthony Kim	32-40–72
Stewart Cink	34-38–72
Martin Laird	34-38–72
Kevin Na	37-35–72
Rory McIlroy	34-38–72
Kevin Stadler	37-35–72
Tim Wilkinson	33-39–72
Chad Campbell	34-38–72
D.A. Points	36-36–72
John Merrick	36-36–72
James Nitties	36-36–72
Sean O'Hair	36-36–72
Padraig Harrington	35-37–72
Rory Sabbatini	34-38–72
Kevin Sutherland	36-36–72
Jonathan Byrd	35-37–72
Carlos Franco	36-36–72
Alex Prugh	38-34–72
Ross Fisher	36-36–72
Charley Hoffman	36-36–72
Kris Blanks	36-36–72
Henrik Bjornstad	37-35–72
Chris Tidland	35-37–72
Steve Marino	37-36–73
Jason Day	36-37–73
Brett Quigley	36-37–73
Lee Westwood	34-39–73
D.J. Trahan	34-39–73
Brian Gay	36-37–73
Johnson Wagner	38-35–73
Ryan Moore	36-37–73
Chez Reavie	35-38–73
Mark Wilson	36-37–73
Jimmy Walker	36-37–73
James Driscoll	37-36–73
Rickie Fowler	33-40–73
Bill Lunde	36-37–73
Chris Stroud	35-38–73
Aaron Baddeley	35-38–73
Mathew Goggin	37-36–73
Joe Ogilvie	38-35–73
Dustin Johnson	35-38–73
Nick O'Hern	34-39–73
Blake Adams	36-37–73
Webb Simpson	35-39–74
Charles Warren	36-38–74
Woody Austin	38-36–74
Tiger Woods	35-39–74
John Senden	38-36–74
Boo Weekley	36-38–74
Ryuji Imada	35-39–74
Jeff Maggert	37-37–74
Tim Petrovic	36-38–74
Roger Tambellini	35-39–74
Josh Teater	36-38–74
Garrett Willis	36-38–74
George McNeill	40-34–74
Charles Howell III	34-40–74
J.P. Hayes	35-39–74
Greg Owen	36-38–74
Kevin Streelman	39-35–74
Trevor Immelman	36-38–74
Carl Pettersson	35-39–74
Jeff Quinney	37-37–74
Chad Collins	35-39–74
Matt Jones	36-38–74
Nicholas Thompson	35-40–75
Roland Thatcher	35-40–75
Jason Bohn	36-39–75
Derek Lamely	37-38–75
Stuart Appleby	37-38–75
Michael Allen	40-35–75
Scott Piercy	36-39–75
Rich Barcelo	37-38–75
Spencer Levin	39-36–75
Aron Price	37-38–75
Jim Furyk	37-38–75
Matt Kuchar	35-40–75
Steve Wheatcroft	38-37–75
Cortland Lowe	37-38–75
Bryce Molder	38-38–76
Steve Lowery	39-37–76
Fred Couples	36-40–76
Daniel Chopra	37-39–76
Vance Veazey	40-36–76
Michael Connell	37-39–76
Pat Perez	39-37–76
Ted Purdy	36-40–76
Brian Davis	38-38–76
Craig Bowden	38-38–76
David Lutterus	36-40–76
Troy Merritt	37-39–76
Jerod Turner	35-41–76
Martin Flores	37-39–76
Chris Riley	37-40–77
Nathan Green	37-40–77
Vijay Singh	40-37–77
Fredrik Jacobson	38-39–77
Matt Bettencourt	39-39–78
Cameron Tringale	37-41–78
Willis Ring	40-38–78
Jeff Klauk	39-39–78
Richard S. Johnson	39-39–78
Cameron Beckman	38-40–78
Adam Scott	39-39–78
Notah Begay III	39-39–78
J.B. Holmes	40-39–79
Jason Dufner	40-40–80
Omar Uresti	40-41–81
Kevin Johnson	38-43–81
Jeff Peck	43-44–87
Parker McLachlin	49-39–88

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SBA King and Queen tourney on May 2 and 3

The Saipan Bowling Association is hosting their Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes and Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes on Sunday, May 2, beginning 3pm and Monday, May 3, starting 6pm at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The tournament is exclusively for SBA members and all participants must pay the annual $15 membership fee.

Bowlers for the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes have the option to bowl either on Sunday or Monday—or on both days—provided that the additional $15 entry fee is paid.

Only each bowler's high score will qualify for prizes with a 60 entry limit for each day. Cash prizes will depend on the number of entries. Women's division prizes will be awarded only if ten or more entries are submitted.

Youth bowlers (12-18 years old) will bowl only on Sunday and will compete for the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes. The youth entry fee is $10—if youth bowlers want to qualify for the annual roll-off they must also pay the $10 SBA youth membership fee.

For early registration and payment contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(Walter J. Sutherland)***

RACE

From Page 28

one of the best junior tennis programs in the Pacific," Race said during last week's awards ceremony for the 2010 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

The NPQ will run from June 14 to 18 with the CNMI netter battling players from Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Winners of tournament will represent the North Team to the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji this August and compete against the West and East squads.

Last year, making the grade for the qualifier were Theecel Minor and Jodel Fernandez in the U18 age group, and Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, and Melody Johnson in U14 division. Thea Minor and Ji Hoon Heo were given automatic slots on the team after their impressive showing in the 2008 POJC.

Fernandez ruled the girls U18 division of the NPQ after going undefeated in six games, while Theecel finished third in the same age group.

Jones and Miller figured in the all-CNMI finals in the boys U14 with the latter winning in straight sets, 7-6, 6-4. Jake Lee finished third, but could not make the team, as each nation is allowed to have only two players in one age group.

The Commonwealth also won the girls U14 finals with Johnson prevailing over Guam's Katie Lai, 6-3, 7-6.

In the boys U18 battle for third place and the last spot on the North Team, Decena lost to Guam's Martin Lai, 4-6, 4-6, but the CNMI bet still made the POJC trip after one qualifier pulled out.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

passed balls in the fifth.

In the top of the sixth with the Fielders leading 13-7, Ol'Aces got four runs back and sent a message to the Fielders that they were not just going to go away.

Kaipat led off and reached off an error and Juan Iguel singled him home.

Lisua reached off an error that set up a two RBI double by Brel who would later score off a Saralu sac-fly.

On their turn, the Fielders failed to extend their slim two-run lead and Ol'Aces were now in a do-or-die situation to start the seventh.

Mike Iguel led of with a hit and Kaipat reached off an error.

Juan Iguel drove in Mike Iguel before getting gunned down at second.

Kaipat scored off an error to tie the game and Brel reached off a fielder's choice bunt.

Saralu singled in Brel for the go-ahead run and then Aughenbaugh stepped up and applied the big exclamation point on Ol'Aces' late five-run rally with a booming two-run homer over the leftfield fence.

In the bottom of the seventh with Ol'Aces in front 16-13, Aughenbaugh took the momentum with him to the mound and closed the last three outs to save the game. Aughenbaugh had four strikeouts in four innings pitched and added three hits and two runs scored to his impressive homer.

NOLI

From Page 28

left, while Andreau Galvez holds a 3-2 mark with one game remaining. Dick Guintu and Hapi Gabriel are tied for fourth with similar 2-3 slates.

In the men's C singles, Manatsu Omori gained the top seeding in the playoffs with his 3-0 record. Chris Hilario finished second with a 2-1 mark, followed by Rob Harrell (1-2), and Kanata Omori (0-3).

In the women's B singles, Malasarte and Angie Ito are undefeated in Group A with their 3-0 and 4-0 slates, respectively. Hannah Choi is ahead in Group B of the women's B singles at 5-0 record with one game left.

The battle for the playoffs spots in the women's C singles is interesting as all six players have already tasted defeat. Merlie Tolentino has a slight edge over five others with her 4-1 slate. Heo In Suk holds a 2-1 mark with two games to go, while Annette Quiambao has a 2-3 mark.

In the mixed doubles AB, only Aguda and Marlene Peraja and Bulaon and Shirley Kim are unbeaten, holding 5-0 and 4-0 records, respectively. In Group B, only the pair of Guinti and Choi is spotless with the duo's 4-0 mark, while Gabriel and Malou Malasarte are in second place with a 4-2 slate.

In mixed doubles B, the tandem of Diola and Choi are flawless in three games with three matches left to lead Group A. Vales and Malasarte have a 4-1 slate with one match remaining. In Group B, Jojo Savellano and Angie Ito are assured of tickets to the next round after a 6-0 sweep of the elimination round.

In the mixed doubles C, Annette Ta and Chris Hilario are undefeated in three games with three matches left, while Manatsu Omori and Quiambao were done with their elimination round assignments compiling a 5-1 record.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ron Chisato went unscathed in USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day 8-Ball Tournament qualifier last Sunday.

Chisato tops Mother's Day qualifier

Ron Chisato took down a spot in USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day 8-Ball Tournament by going undefeated in last Sunday's qualifier.

Chisato won a trophy from Pacific Amusement and the 10th slot in the May 9 competition. He will also face off against Edward Suzuki before Thursday's qualifying tournament to compete for a USSP T-shirt.

Free qualifying tournaments are held every Thursday and Sunday, with the 13 winners and three runners-up with the most points earning slots in the Mother's Day final.

There is no entry fee. First place in the final is good for $100, with $50 for second. There will also be trophies courtesy of Pacific Amusement and in-house prizes.

Chisato ran to the top of the winner's bracket by defeating Leonard Sablan, Erina Olkeriil, and John Mongami. Olkeriil had beaten Annie Tesiro, while Mongami sent Ryan Perez and Mark Butac to the loser's bracket.

Butac came back with wins over Sablan and Patrick Cepeda, who had eliminated Perez and Olkeriil. He fell to Mongami again, but Mongami still couldn't get past Chisato in the final.

Chester Cuento topped Suzuki, 3-1, in the T-shirt competition before the qualifier, forcing Suzuki to try again Thursday.

Quinton Ngirarois, Olkeriil, and Butac are currently tied for the points lead to take the three 'open' slots in the Mother's Day tourney, with Mongami one point behind.

Previous qualifiers were won by Larry Briones, Nolan Cultura, Marc Brian Nelvis, Rick Rengiil, Suzuki, Taylor Watanabe, Mei Rengiil, Simeon Kapileo, and Cuento.

Sign-up begins at 7:30pm for the free Thursday and Sunday tournaments. All games are double-elimination, following Billiard Congress of America rules.

The May 9 tournament will begin at 7pm because of the full 16-player bracket.

For more information, contact USSP owners Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

Water Flipper Tournament set for June 19

The CNMI's newest sporting event—the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament—will again be held at Managaha Island on June 19.

Managaha Island is a tiny island in the lagoon of Saipan, the capital island of the Northern Marianas.

Managaha Island was selected No. 1 snorkeling spot at 2008's Marine Diving Fair in Japan.

Over 100 participants entered the 1.5-kilometer race during its inaugural staging. This unique race allows swimmers to use fins, snorkels, and wetsuits or lifejackets. There will be several age divisions—19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-and-up. Those age 18-and-under will be entered in the Junior Division.

Ferries depart promptly at 4:45am the morning of the race, carrying participants, officials, and spectators to Managaha Island. The race starts at 6:30am, with an island-style awards ceremony at 9am on Managaha.

The event is sponsored by Marianas Visitors Authority and the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan.

"This is a cooperative effort, with MVA producing the tournament and the foundation marketing it to their members in Japan," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Last year the event was very successful. Community Sports Center Foundation is a great organization for us to partner with; we are happy to have so many Japanese enthusiasts visit our islands and enjoy our pristine waters.

The cost is $25for Northern Marianas residents. The deadline to register with the MVA is June 18 from 4pm to 6pm during the orientation at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Saipan. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience. Mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit or lifejacket are required.

For more information or to register, contact the MVA at 664-3200/01 or send inquiries to Edward Diaz at ediaz@mymarianas.com or or Frank Tudela at ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

HANMI

From Page 28

our committee looks forward to putting on another exciting tournament and making enticing prizes available both on the field and at the awards banquet raffle."

Registration forms will be available shortly at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Coral Ocean Point, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Marianas Country Club. Early bird tournament fee is $95 for payments by June 3. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. The fee increases to $110 on June 4. For an additional $20, players may also compete for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive.

The tournament features six categories—Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors (55 years-and-over), and Ladies. Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-5 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 6-10 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 11-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap above 17.

First place winners of all flights will receive $500 and a trophy; second place finishers will receive $300 and a trophy; and third place winners will receive $200 and a trophy.

First place winners will also receive a hotel stay at a HANMI member hotel. Winners (champion, first runner-up and second runner-up) for the female golfers will be determined using the Double Peoria handicap system.

Other competitions include most accurate drive, longest drive, and nearest to pin. Players interested in registering for these competitions must pay an additional $20. Two $20,000 hole-in-one prizes will be up for grabs.

The tournament will start at 7am. The awards ceremony will be held at Fiesta Resort and Spa at 6pm.

Previously, HANMI has supported Crimestoppers, PAWS, the Chinatown skatepark, Saipan Marathon, and other community causes with the proceeds of the tournament. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

40 days to go
SOUTH AFRICA 2010
FIFA WORLD CUP

Race confident CNMI will dominate NPQ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI coach Jeff Race launched the traditional "head shaved" challenge to the Commonwealth junior netters, anew when they participate in the 2010 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in June.

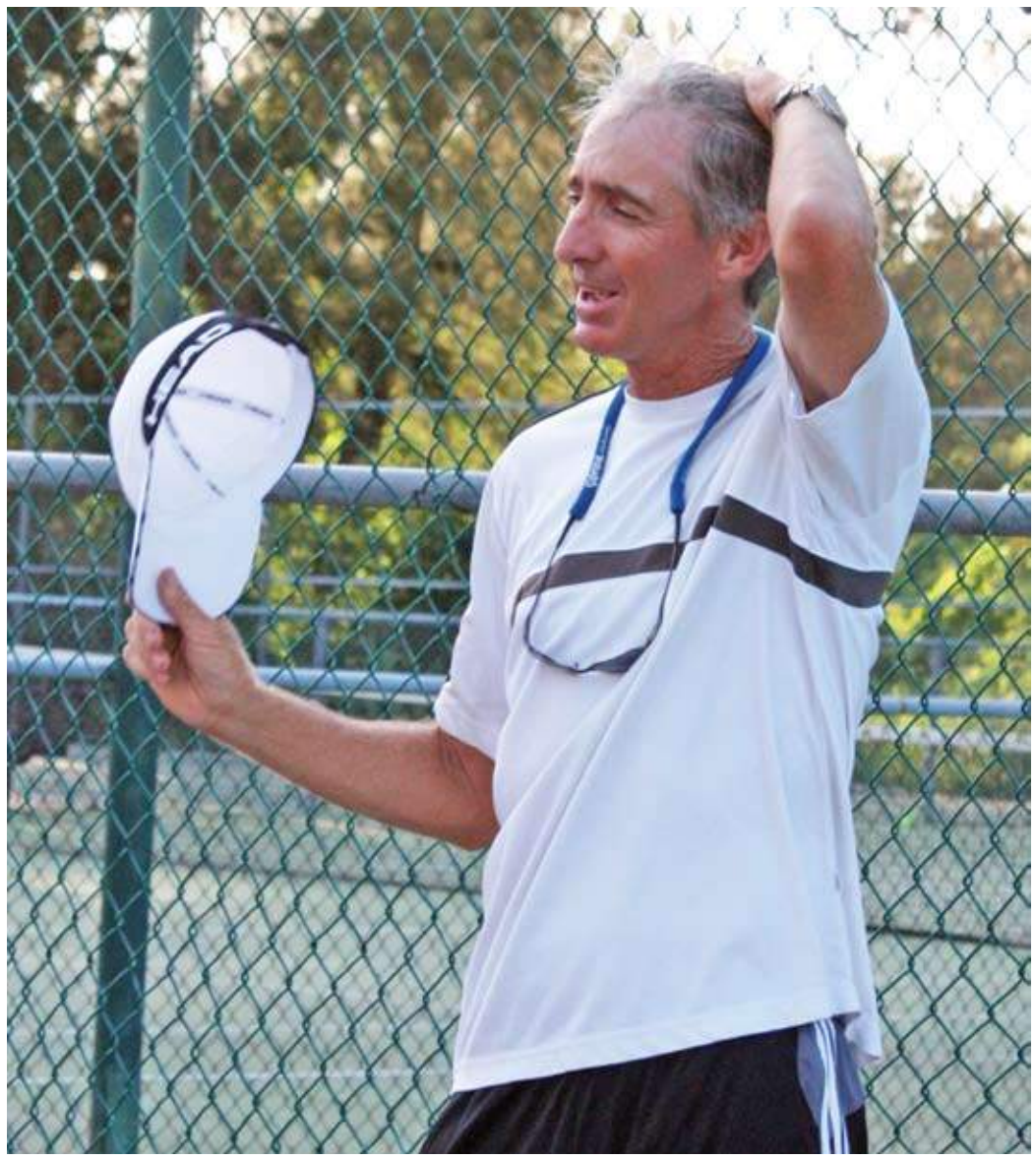
"If we get 12 slots this year, I am having my head shaved," said Race.

Race was talking of the NPQ, which Saipan will be hosting and will have competitions in the U12, U14, and U18. Each nation is allowed to gain only two slots in each age group in the boys and girls division.

Last year, the CNMI originally gained seven slots before the last-minute addition of Benjie Decena made it eight. Race could have had shaven his head last year then, as technically the Commonwealth reached its target, but since no one reminded him of the "challenge," he is "putting his head on the line" again this year.

"I believe with the addition of the U12, we have a strong chance to get the 12 slots. This is the challenge for all of you. Let's show them what we got and prove that the CNMI has

See RACE on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI coach Jeff Race is seen here holding his head during the awards ceremony for the 2010 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the AMP tennis court last week. He will have his head shaved if the Commonwealth's junior tennis players get 12 slots in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in June.

Noli Santos advances to IT&E badminton tourney playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Noli Santos swept his elimination round assignments to lead the playoff cast in the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition.

Only the Top 4 teams/players in each division will play in the next round and pending last night and today's results, only Santos and the other undefeated players have strong chances to gain slots to the playoff round, which will begin tomorrow at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Santos topped the men's singles B elimination round with his 6-0 record. Edwin Maratas (4-1), Mario Diola (2-2), Rodwealth Espana (1-1), and Roger Vales (1-3) will fight for the remaining three playoffs seats.

In the men's A singles, Rey Bulaon is likely to advance to the next round with his 5-0 record with one match to go. Macoi Aguda owns a 3-1 mark with two games

See NOLI on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Semifinalist Noli Santos in action in one of the elimination games in the men's B singles division of the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Ol'Aces rally to beat Fielders, 16-13

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

After batting 0-for-4 all game, Ol'Aces closer Eli Aughenbaugh busted a towering two-run homer over the leftfield wall as Ol'Aces stole Thursday night's 2010 Saipan Big League baseball game, 16-13, against the Fielders at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield in dramatic fashion.

From the beginning, the visiting Ol'Aces got right to work and scored three runs in the first with the help of four errors, a wild pitch, and two hits.

Then both teams traded runs as the Fielders scored one in the bottom of the second after Jonathon Ceils led off with a triple and came in off an error.

Nokki Saralu doubled and scored off two passed balls in the top of the third for the Ol'Aces.

Then Fielders finally made a statement with a big six-run inning in the bottom of the third.

With two outs, third batter, Ben Flores, reached with a single before Wensner Namelo walked to first.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Ol'Aces players congratulate Eli Aughenbaugh (1) after he belted a two-run monster shot over the leftfield fence with two outs in the top of the seventh inning of Thursday night's 2010 Saipan Big League game against the Fielders.

Celis singled in Flores and Tom Agulto got hit by a pitch to load the bases.

Anthony Tenorio reached off a big error that scored Namelo and Celis.

Then, Eldred Sanchez came up with a huge two RBI triple that brought in Agulto and Tenorio.

Robert Guererro kept it going and singled in Sanchez before the Ol'Aces could escape the inning.

With the score at 7-4 Fielders after three, Ol'Aces briefly tied the game in the top half of the fourth.

Mike Iguel led off with a double and Marvin Kaipat reached off an error.

With one out, Antonio Lisua knocked a two-run double that brought in Mike Iguel and Kaipat.

Jimmy Brel reached off a fielder's choice and Saralu brought him in with an RBI single.

Ol'Aces relieved starting pitcher Saralu with Brel to start the bottom of the fourth, but it didn't last long as four batters and four runs later, Aughenbaugh was sent in to control the tempo of the game.

After Aughenbaugh went 1-2-3 to get Ol'Aces off the field, they shot a blank to start the fifth while the Fielders added two runs to their lead as Juan Maritita and Ionis Rasa both reached off hits and scored off

See OL'ACES on Page 27

HANMI Charity Golf Classic set for June 5

One of the most highly anticipated annual golf tournaments in the Northern Mariana Islands is set to tee-off on June 5 as the 9th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament prepares to offer golfers the chance to win enticing prizes while supporting a good cause.

This year's tournament will be held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort and will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. A total of $6,000 cash and numerous in-kind prizes await the winners. HANMI is working to secure more prizes, and proceeds of the tournament will be contributed to community charities.

"We encourage all golfers to mark their calendars for the 9th HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament," said HANMI chairman Nick Nishikawa. "In addition to working with tournament sponsors to raise money for a good cause,

See HANMI on Page 27